

**The Kingdom
of Heaven ...
on Earth!**



Some Quotes

“If we were to set out to establish a religion in polar opposition to the Beatitudes Jesus taught, it would look strikingly similar to much of pop Christianity that has taken over the airwaves of North America.”

— Tony Campolo



Some Quotes

“I have often wondered why people never want to put a stone monument of the Eight Beatitudes on a courthouse lawn. Then I realize that the Eight Beatitudes of Jesus would probably not be very good for any war, any macho worldview, the wealthy, or our consumer economy.”

— Richard Rohr



Some Quotes

“When God wants to sort out the world, as the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount make clear, he doesn't send in the tanks. He sends in the meek, the broken, the justice hungry, the peacemakers, the pure hearted and so on.”

— Tom Wright



Some Quotes

“The Beatitudes are no spiritual “to do list” to be attempted by eager, rule-keeping disciples. It is a spiritual “done” list of the qualities God brings to bear in the people who follow Jesus.”

— Ronnie McBrayer



Where are we going this morning?

- Will you join Jesus on the Mountain?
- What did Jesus say ...
- How do we make sense of the Beatitudes?
- What will we do with today?



Will you join Jesus on the mountain?

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the hillside and sat down. His disciples came to him. He took a deep breath, and began his teaching”

Matthew 5:1
(Bible for Everyone)

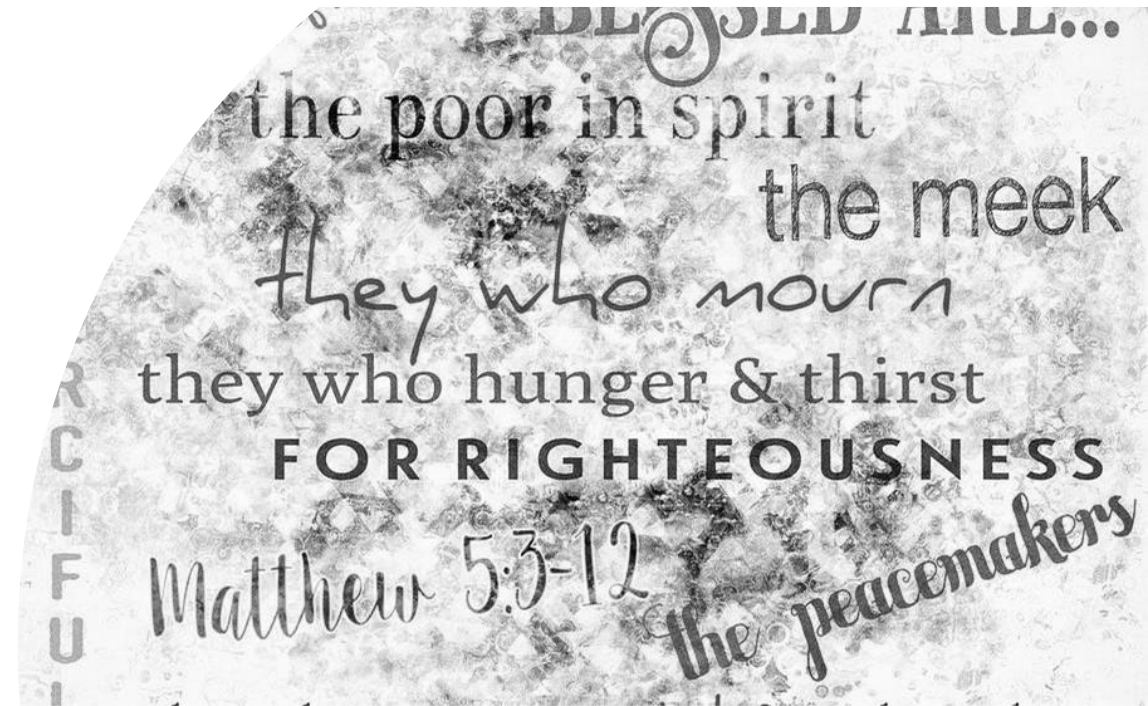
Ascend
the Hill



What did Jesus say?

Blessed are ...

- ... the poor in spirit
- ... those who mourn
- ... the gentle
- ... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- ... the merciful
- ... the pure in heart
- ... the peacemakers
- ... those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness

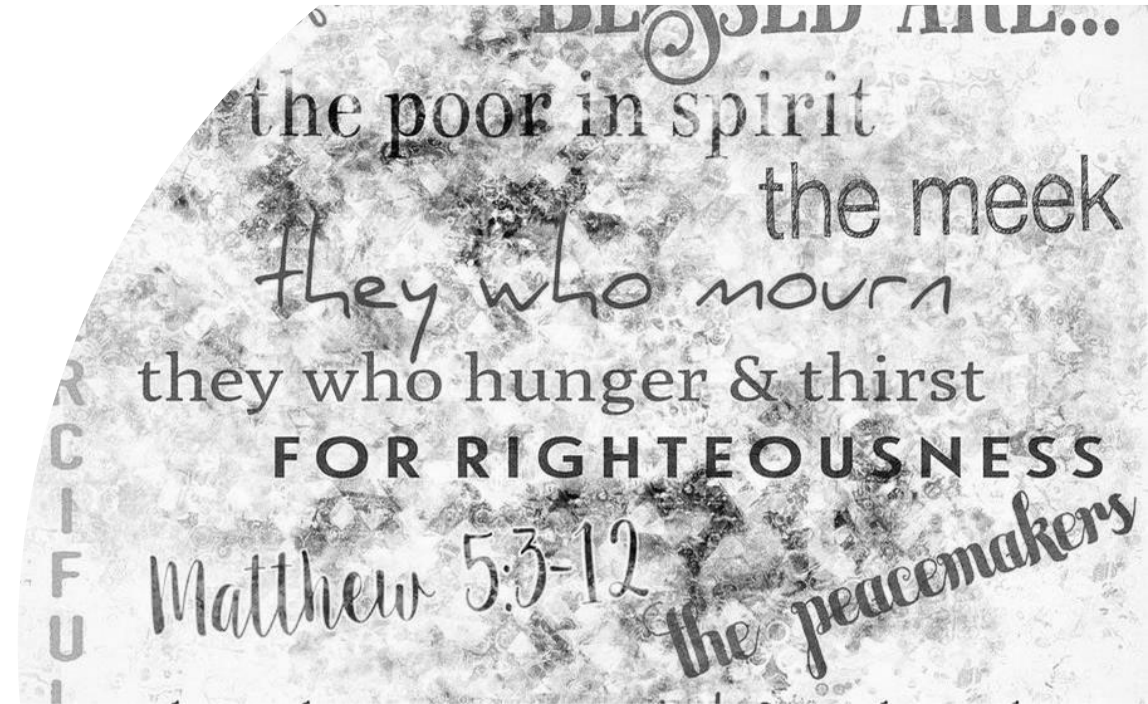


How do make sense of the beatitudes?

Blessed or Happy?

Not aspirational ... Proclamations!

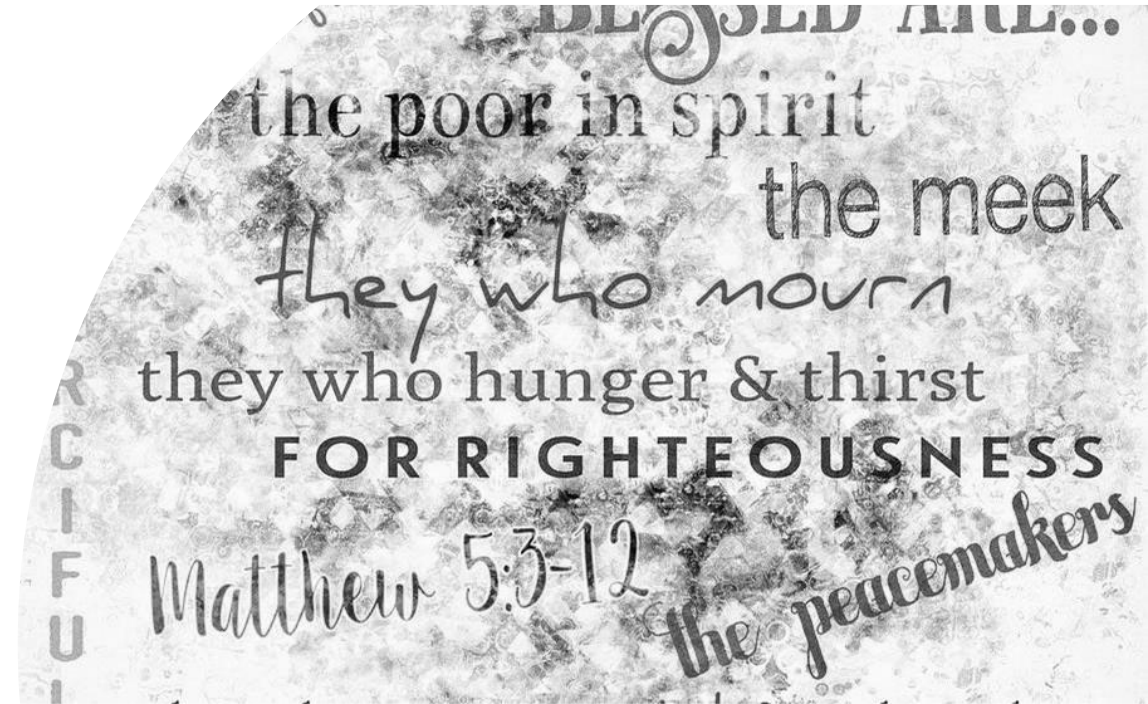
Kingdom Now ... Kingdom Come



Kingdom NOW

The happiness of the poor in spirit!
... *The kingdom of heaven IS yours*

The happiness of the people who are
persecuted because of God's way!
... *The kingdom of heaven BELONGS
to you*



Coming to the Beatitudes ...

“[The Beatitudes] are a summons to live in the present in the way that will make sense in God’s promised future; because that future has arrived in the present in Jesus of Nazareth. It may seem upside down, but we are called to believe, with great daring, that it is in fact the right way up.”

— Tom Wright



The Beatitudes ...

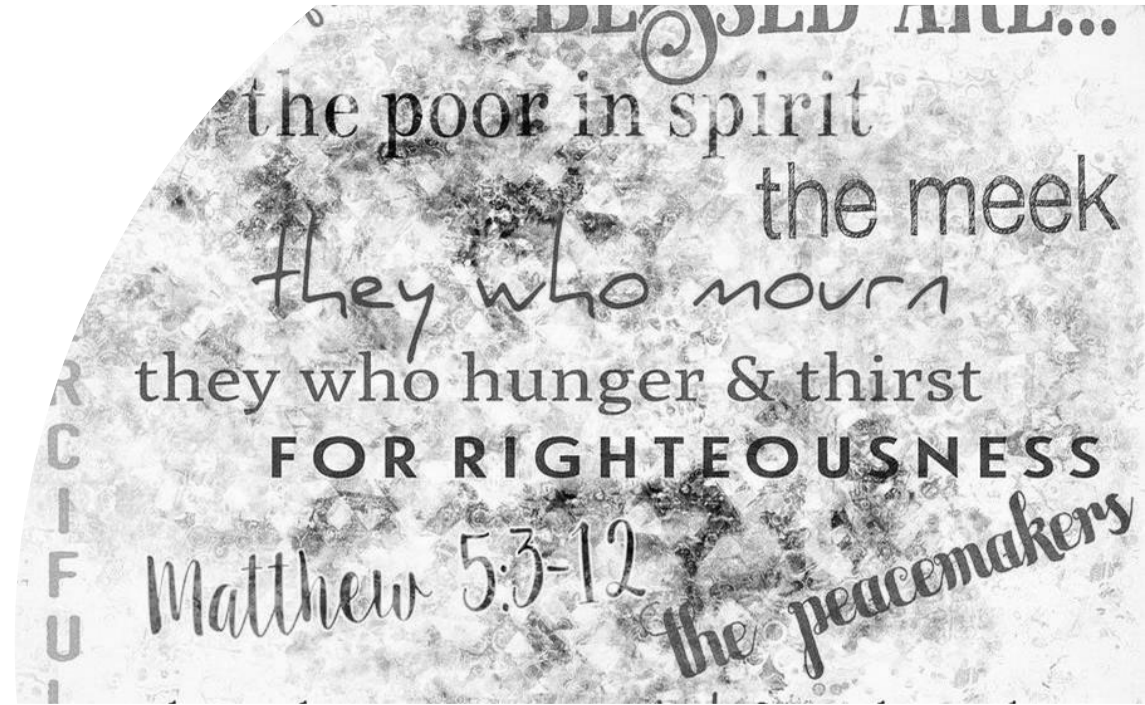
A definition

The Beatitudes are ...

... divine,

... celebratory pronouncements
of present and future joy

... for those in the Kingdom of
God currently living in the world.





God on our side!

God, you're such a safe and powerful place to find refuge!

You're a proven help in time of trouble—
more than enough and always available whenever I need you.

So, we will never fear - even if every structure of support
were to crumble away.

We will not fear even when the earth quakes and shakes,
moving mountains and casting them into the sea.

For the raging roar of stormy winds and crashing waves
cannot erode our faith in you.

Psalms 46
(TPT)

