

Background:

v.3 Poor in spirit → theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Humility: James 4:17; 1 Peter 5:5
Spirit, soul, body: 1 Thes 5:23

v.4 Those who mourn → they shall be comforted

“mourn” in the NT: Mt 5:4; Mt 9:15; Mk 16:10; Lk 6:25; 1 Cor 5:2; 2 Cor 12:21; James 4:8-10; Rev 18:11,15,19

v.5 The meek (gentle) → they shall inherit the earth

Greek #4239: Mt 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1 Pt 3:4

The Greek work for “inherit” (#2816 kleronomeo) used here occurs 18 times in the NT – inheriting eternal life, the kingdom, God’s promises, an excellent name, salvation, and God’s blessing.

v.6 Hunger & thirst for righteousness → they shall be filled (satisfied)

Some notable occurrences of “righteousness”: Mt 5:20; 6:1; 6:33; Jn 16:8,10; Ac 17:31; Rom 1:16-17; Rom 3:22-26; Rom 14:17; 1 Cor 1:30-31; 2 Cor 5:21; 2 Cor 6:14 ... occurs 91 times in the New Testament

v.7 The merciful → they shall receive mercy

v.8 Pure in heart → they shall see God

Heart and treasure: Matthew 6:19-21
Heart and evil: Matthew 15:18-19

v.9 Peacemakers → they shall be called the sons of God

Making peace: Eph 2:14-18; Col 1:19-20
Sons of God: Mt 5:43-47; Rom 8:14-17

v.10 Persecuted for the sake of righteousness → theirs is the kingdom of heaven

v.11-12 Reviled, persecuted, lied about, for Jesus’ sake → great reward in heaven

v. 13-16 Salt and Light

Other significant "Blesseds" in the New Testament:

Matthew 11:16; 13:16; 16:17; 24:46

Luke 1:45; 11:28

John 13:17; 20:29

Acts 20:35

Romans 4:7-8; 14:22

James 1:12; 1:25

1 Peter 3:14; 4:14

Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14

Some questions to consider, to help with making application:

1. Are you spiritually arrogant or spiritually humble? Are you pursuing humility, or are you pursuing pride?
2. What do you hunger and thirst for? What do you long for?

Jesus: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Mt 6:33

3. Are you merciful towards others?
4. Do you work for peace between others?
(Or do you enjoy a good fight or argument?)
5. Do you believe that you are salt and light for Christ in this world?
6. Are you staying salty? Is your light shining?
7. Is there a need to "Change the way you think" ... and, therefore, act?