

A SINGLE PERSONALITY

The beatitudes are a portrait of a single personality. The character is Christ's own. To lack any of the particular characteristics is to be deficient. The desirable characteristics are arranged in a special sequence- an order of development. All must be developed to attain the fulness of the stature of Christ.

THE CHRIST CHARACTER

1. POVERTY OF SPIRIT Isa.66:2, Ps.51:17
A crushing of the human spirit A denial of the human will - ie. an emptying process by which self is displaced and God's will installed. The crushing of the natural rebelliousness of the flesh under the impact of the word.
 2. MOURNING IN ZION Isa.61:1-3
The natural outcome of a crushed spirit - A longing for the divine will to be vindicated in all the earth. A desire for "the redemption of the body" - the end of corruption.
 3. MEEKNESS OF WISDOM Ps.37:11, 25:9-14
A development of poverty of spirit and mourning - A teachableness and malleability flowing from self control and perceptive wisdom. Requires faith and courage.
 4. HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS Ps.42:1-2
An insatiable desire for identification with God - The seeking of total harmony and fellowship with God - A striving to attain to God manifestation.
 5. A RESPONSIVE MERCY Ps.18:24-27
A balancing of zeal for righteousness by a mercy which responds to a recognition of one's own need. A tempering of justice by mercy without compromise.
 6. PURITY OF HEART Ps.24:4
An unmixed purity of heart - A cleansing of the mind of all impurity and corruption. A singleness of desire and purpose resulting in shamelessness.
 7. A CONSTRUCTIVE PEACEMAKING
A positive attitude of constructiveness motivated by love which builds up. An attribute flowing from a development of the foregoing characteristics.
 8. SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
A consequence of the development of this composite character which is the antithesis of the natural tendencies and character of man.
- * While the 7th refers to that which flows out from a disciple for the benefit of others the 8th refers to that which flows out from others towards him.

WHY BLESSINGS ONLY?

Contrast the Law - Deut.28, Lev.26. The absence of curses points to a grave reality. No disobedience will mar Christ's Kingdom. All wickedness will have been destroyed. While disobedience could and did exist under the Law of Moses, no such thing will exist in Christ's Kingdom.

It was not mildness of disposition but stern logic that impelled Jesus to open with blessings only.