

The Beatitudes Lesson: Grades 3-5

Objective: Students will be able to understand that the Beatitudes are sayings Jesus taught to show us to live and how we will be rewarded if we live His teachings.

Pre-Video Discussion: Discuss with the student different ways that Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God. One way is through stories, also known as parables. The people learned from the stories. Another way they learned was from listening to Jesus preach. One day Jesus preached to the people and taught them how they could be “blessed” or happy. These were ways to grow closer to God called the Beatitudes.

Watch “The Beatitudes: Grade 3-5” on Catholic Brain

Video Lesson Content:

When Jesus was on earth he fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. Jesus did all these things, but they are not the reason He came to earth. Jesus came to earth to preach the Gospel. Gospel means “Good News.” Jesus came to teach us about God’s Kingdom. Jesus taught the people how they must live their lives.

Jesus taught the people how they should act with stories. He told the story of the Good Shepherd and the Prodigal Son. The people liked Jesus’ stories and learned from them. Jesus also helped the people to understand how to live their lives through teaching the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes are sayings Jesus had taught the people while He was on earth. These Beatitudes, or teaching of Jesus, showed the people how to live their lives on earth so that someday they would be rewarded in heaven.

One day a great crowd followed Jesus up a mountain. They sat down and listened to Him teach. Jesus began to tell them about the kingdom of God. Jesus’ teachings on this day is known as “The Sermon on the Mount.” It was on this day that Jesus taught the people “the Beatitudes.”

Jesus called the people “blessed” if they followed His example. This is what Jesus taught them:

- 1) “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” Jesus was telling us that if a person has a spirit of poverty and does not make material things of this earth more important than God, then they will be with God in heaven.
- 2) “Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.” When a person is meek it means they are gentle and prefers not to argue with others. Jesus was saying that these people will have what they want in heaven.

- 3) "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." When a person mourns they are sad. Jesus was saying that in the next life, they will be happy.
- 4) "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied." Jesus is telling us that those who want fairness and peace on earth will see complete justice in the heavenly kingdom.
- 5) "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." When a person shows mercy they are showing forgiveness to those who deserve punishment. Jesus is saying that in heaven, God will show mercy to them.
- 6) "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God." A person who is clean of heart puts God above all other earthly things. Jesus is saying that they will see God in heaven.
- 7) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Jesus is saying that when a person tries to get along with others, they will be called in a special way God's children.
- 8) "Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven." Jesus is telling us when a person suffers because they are doing what is right, they will obtain heaven.
- 9) "Blessed are you when they shall revile you, and persecute you, and speak all that is evil against you, untruly, for My sake. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in Heaven. For so they persecuted the prophets that were before you." Jesus is saying to us that when we do what is right and then others laugh and talk badly about us; we should be glad, because our reward awaits us in heaven.

Jesus is promising us that our acts of mercy will be seen by the Father and that seeking God first is the way to heaven. Jesus is warning us that following Him will cause us pain. This pain will come from people who reject Jesus, but this pain will be replaced with the rewards we will receive in heaven. Living the Beatitudes is hard but it is how we as God's people are called to live.

Activity

Look on the computer or in a newspaper for a story that shows a person living out one of the Beatitudes.