

Beatitude Study 1: “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit” (Matthew 5:3)

Introduction

The first beatitude sets the tone for the entire Sermon on the Mount. To be *poor in spirit* is not financial poverty but spiritual humility — a deep awareness of our dependence on God. This study explores that humility across Scripture, in the life and work of Jesus, and in the life of BRBC.



1. Understanding “Poor in Spirit”

Key Text: “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*” — Matthew 5:3

Biblical Insight

To be poor in spirit means recognising we bring nothing to God except our need. It is the opposite of pride, self-reliance, and spiritual entitlement.

OT Cross-References

- Psalm 34:18 — *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.*
- Isaiah 57:15 — God dwells with the contrite and lowly in spirit.
- Isaiah 66:2 — God looks favourably on the humble and contrite.
- 1 Samuel 16:7 — God looks at the heart, not outward strength.

NT Cross-References

- Luke 18:9–14 — The Pharisee and the tax collector.
- James 4:6–10 — *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*
- 1 Peter 5:5–7 — Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand.
- Revelation 3:17–18 — The church that thought it was rich but was poor.

Questions

- When have you been most aware of your spiritual need? What did God teach you in that season?
- Which forms of pride most easily creep into your life — eg. self-reliance, defensiveness, spiritual comparison?
- What practices help you cultivate humility before God?
- What does a “poor in spirit” disciple look like in everyday life?
- What dangers arise in a church when humility is missing?

2. Jesus Christ: The Perfect Example of Spiritual Poverty

Jesus is the King who models what His kingdom looks like.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Philippians 2:5–11 — He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant.
- John 5:19,30 — Jesus did nothing apart from the Father.
- Matthew 11:29 — He describes Himself as *gentle and humble in heart*.
- John 13:1–17 — Washing His disciples’ feet.

Jesus shows that poverty of spirit is not weakness but strength submitted to the Father.

Questions

- How does Jesus’ humility reshape your understanding of greatness?
- Where is Jesus inviting you to “empty yourself” and trust the Father more fully?
- What would it look like for BRBC to be a church that reflects the humility of Jesus?

3. Kingdom Reversal: Why the Poor in Spirit Receive the Kingdom

The world honours the self-made. Jesus honours the self-emptied.

Scriptural Connections

- Matthew 18:1–4 — The greatest in the kingdom is like a little child.
- Luke 6:20 — Luke’s version emphasises the poor and marginalised.
- 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 — God chooses the weak things of the world.

Those who admit their emptiness are the ones God fills.

Questions

- What parts of your life are most difficult to surrender to God’s rule?
- How do we mistakenly measure “greatness” in the church or society?
- What would it mean for us to help one another live as citizens of Jesus’ upside-down kingdom?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Are we creating a culture where people can be honest about weakness, sin, struggle, and doubt?
- Do we encourage one another to depend on God rather than ourselves?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- Are there ways we unintentionally project strength instead of service?
- What does it look like to walk humbly with God in our public witness in this world? (Micah 6:8)

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- Do our relationships reflect a posture of listening more than speaking?
- How can humility reshape conflict and communication?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Begin each day with a prayer of surrender: “Lord, I need You today. Teach me to rely on You.”
- Try a week of intentionally asking others for help.
- Choose a hidden act of service that no one will see.
- Practice confession — to God and to a trusted believer.

Questions

- What would change if our church’s instinct was always humility first?
- Are we more concerned with appearing strong than being transformed?
- What is one area where God is calling you to “empty yourself” so He can fill you?
- What ministry or community need could BRBC meet more effectively through humility?

Closing Prayer

“Lord Jesus, teach us to walk in Your humility. Make us poor in spirit so that Your kingdom may be rich among us. Amen.”



Beatitude Study 2: “Blessed Are Those Who Mourn” (Matthew 5:4)

Introduction

Jesus blesses those who mourn, promising comfort. Mourning here isn't just sorrow but a godly grief that leads to repentance, healing, and hope. This study explores biblical teaching on mourning, how Christ embodies it, and how Brighton Road Baptist Church can live this beatitude practically.



Blessed are they that mourn...

1. Understanding “Those Who Mourn”

Key Text: *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”* — Matthew 5:4

Biblical Insight

Mourning includes grief over sin, brokenness in the world, and personal suffering, opening the heart to God's comfort.

OT Cross-References

- Psalm 34:18 — *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.*
- Isaiah 61:1–3 — God comforts those who mourn and gives beauty for ashes.
- Jeremiah 9:1 — Jeremiah's deep lament over Israel's sin.
- Lamentations 3:31–33 — God's compassion in our affliction.

NT Cross-References

- John 11:33–36 — Jesus wept at Lazarus' death.
- 2 Corinthians 7:9–10 — Godly sorrow brings repentance and salvation.
- Revelation 21:4 — God will wipe away every tear.

Questions

- When have you experienced mourning that drew you closer to God?
- How do you distinguish between godly mourning and despair?
- How can mourning lead to personal or communal transformation?
- Why might mourning be necessary in the life of a believer or church?

2. Jesus Christ: The Compassionate Mourner

Jesus knows grief deeply: at the death of Lazarus, at Jerusalem's rejection, and ultimately on the cross.

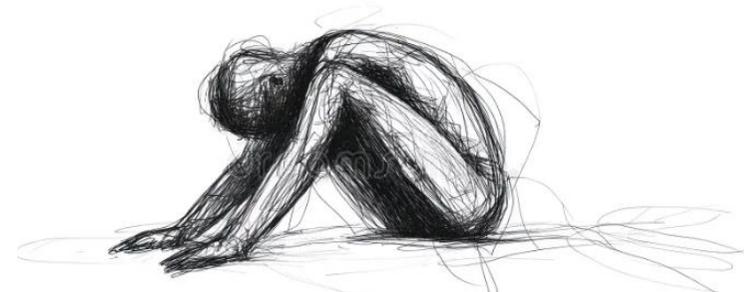
How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- He weeps with Mary and Martha (John 11:33–36).
- He mourns over Jerusalem's hardness (Luke 19:41–44).
- He suffers and dies for sin, absorbing the world's sorrow (Isaiah 53:3–5; Hebrews 5:7–9).

Jesus brings comfort through His presence, sacrifice, and resurrection hope.

Questions

- How does Jesus' mourning shape your view of His empathy and power?
- In what ways can you imitate Jesus' compassion in your life and church?
- How does Christ's comfort transform mourning into hope?



3. Kingdom Implications: Mourning as a Path to Comfort

Jesus promises comfort to mourners, showing that sorrow is not final.

Scriptural Connections

- Isaiah 61:3 — *To grant those who mourn a crown of beauty instead of ashes.*
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 — God comforts us so we can comfort others.
- Romans 8:18 — Present sufferings are not worth comparing with future glory.

Questions

- How can mourning deepen our dependence on God's comfort?
- How does the promise of comfort encourage you in times of loss?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Do we create safe spaces for grief and confession?
- How do we support those in mourning in our fellowship?
- Are we quick to offer comfort and encouragement?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- How might our church embody a ministry of comfort in Horsham and beyond?
- What ministries or partnerships might we develop to support those experiencing loss or hardship?
- How can we pray for global situations of mourning (war, persecution, natural disasters)?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How can we better listen and walk alongside those who grieve?

- What role does forgiveness play in healing mourning relationships?

Questions

- How well do we as individuals and as a church respond to grief?
- What prevents us from mourning openly and receiving God's comfort?
- How might mourning help us grow in empathy and unity?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Reach out this week to someone experiencing loss or hardship.
- Spend time praying through scriptures of comfort (Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:1–11).
- Practice lament — honestly bring your grief to God in prayer or journaling.
- Organise or participate in a support group for grief within the church.

Provocative Questions

- Is there a grief or sorrow we have ignored or buried as a church?
- How might embracing mourning bring renewal to BRBC?
- Where could you personally allow God to comfort you more deeply?
- How can our church's witness be strengthened by authentic mourning and comfort?

Closing Prayer

“Lord Jesus, You are the God who sees our tears and offers comfort. Teach us to mourn well — over sin, loss, and brokenness — and to receive Your healing grace. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be a community of compassion and hope. Amen.”

Beatitude Study 3: “Blessed Are the Peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9)

Introduction

Peacemakers reflect God’s heart in a fractured world. This beatitude calls us to pursue reconciliation, justice, and harmony—both inwardly and outwardly. We will explore biblical teaching on peace, Jesus as the Prince of Peace, and how Brighton Road Baptist Church can live as agents of God’s peace locally and globally.



1. Understanding “Peacemakers”

Key Text: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”* — Matthew 5:9

Biblical Insight

Peacemakers actively pursue peace through reconciliation, forgiveness, and justice. They reflect God’s character as Creator and Redeemer.

OT Cross-References

- Numbers 6:24–26 — The priestly blessing invoking peace.
- Isaiah 9:6 — The Messiah called “Prince of Peace.”
- Psalm 34:14 — *Seek peace and pursue it.*
- Proverbs 12:20 — *Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who promote peace have joy.*

NT Cross-References

- Romans 12:18 — *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
- Ephesians 2:14–18 — Christ breaks down the dividing wall, making peace.
- James 3:17–18 — The wisdom from above is peaceable.
- Hebrews 12:14 — *Strive for peace with everyone.*

Questions

- How do you define a peacemaker?
- When have you experienced difficulty in pursuing peace?
- How do justice and peace relate? Are they always connected?
- How do you respond when peace requires sacrifice or confrontation?

2. Jesus Christ: The Ultimate Peacemaker

Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brings reconciliation between God and humanity and among people.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Isaiah 53:5 — He was wounded that we might have peace.
- John 14:27 — *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*
- Colossians 1:19–20 — Through Christ, God reconciled all things to Himself.
- Matthew 11:28–30 — Jesus invites the weary to find rest and peace in Him.

Questions

- How does Jesus’ peace differ from worldly peace?
- In what ways has Jesus called *you* to be a peacemaker?
- How might Jesus’ peace empower you in conflict?



3. Kingdom Implications: Peacemaking as Sonship

To be called a “child of God” is the highest identity, reflecting God’s nature as the source of peace.

Scriptural Connections

- Romans 5:1 — *Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:18 — God gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
- Matthew 10:34–39 — Jesus’ peace sometimes involves costly choices.

Questions

- How does peacemaking reflect our identity as God’s children?
- When does peacemaking require courage and risk?
- How can we balance peace and truth when they seem to conflict?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Are we quick to forgive and seek reconciliation within the church?
- How do we handle disagreements and conflict?
- Do we promote unity without suppressing honest differences?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- What opportunities exist for us as BRBC to engage in social justice and reconciliation?
- How might we pray and act for peace in global conflicts?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How can we nurture peace in our closest relationships?
- Are there unresolved conflicts we need to bring before God?

Questions

- What does peacemaking cost us personally and corporately?
- Where do you sense God calling you to act as a peacemaker?
- What fears or barriers do you face in pursuing peace?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Commit to praying daily for peace in your relationships, community, and the world.
- Practice active listening and empathy in difficult conversations.
- Seek out and participate in local reconciliation or justice initiatives.
- Reflect regularly on your attitudes toward conflict and peace.

Questions

- If you embraced a peacemaking lifestyle fully, how would your daily decisions change?
- How can our church culture grow in handling conflict healthily?
- What ministry or outreach could BRBC initiate that embodies peacemaking?
- How might your witness be affected by living as a peacemaker?

Closing Prayer

“Prince of Peace, fill us with Your Spirit to bring reconciliation and healing. Help us reflect Your peace in our hearts, homes, church, and community. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be a beacon of peace and hope in Horsham and beyond. Amen.”

Beatitude Study 4: “Blessed Are the Meek” (Matthew 5:5)

Introduction

Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness, but in Scripture, it is strength under control—a gentle humility that trusts God’s justice. This study explores meekness through Scripture, how Jesus embodied it, and how Brighton Road Baptist Church can cultivate meekness in our community and witness.

1. Understanding “The Meek”

Key Text: *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”* — Matthew 5:5

Biblical Insight

Meekness is a disposition of humility, patience, and trust in God’s timing rather than asserting oneself by force or pride.

OT Cross-References

- Psalm 37:11 — *But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.*
- Numbers 12:3 — Moses was very meek, more than all people on the earth.
- Isaiah 42:1–4 — The Servant of the Lord will bring justice meekly.
- Zephaniah 2:3 — Seek humility and meekness.

NT Cross-References

- 1 Timothy 6:11 — Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, meekness.
- James 1:21 — Receive the word implanted with meekness.
- 2 Timothy 2:24–26 — The Lord’s servant must be gentle and patient.
- Galatians 5:22–23 — Meekness as a fruit of the Spirit.

Questions

- How would you describe meekness in your own words?

- How does meekness differ from passivity or weakness?
- What challenges do you face in living meekly?

2. Jesus Christ: The Meek and Lowly Heart

Jesus is the perfect example of meekness—powerful yet gentle.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Matthew 11:29 — *I am meek and lowly in heart.*
- John 8:1–11 — Jesus gently confronts sin without condemnation.
- Philippians 2:5–8 — Jesus humbled Himself, obedient to death.
- Revelation 1:5 — Jesus is the faithful witness, the ruler of kings who comes in meekness.

Questions

- How does Jesus’ meekness challenge your ideas about strength, leadership, power and authority?
- How might embracing meekness change how you handle conflict?

3. Kingdom Implications: Meekness and Inheriting the Earth

Meekness is not passive but active trust that God will establish justice and reward.

Scriptural Connections

- Psalm 37:7–9 — Trust in the Lord, delight in Him, and wait patiently.
- Matthew 21:5 — *“Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey.”*
- James 4:6 — God gives grace to the humble.
- 1 Peter 3:3–4 — Beauty in a gentle and quiet spirit.



Questions

- How does meekness reflect confidence in God's sovereignty?
- What does it mean to inherit the earth in this context?
- How can we cultivate patience and trust in God's timing?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Do we foster a culture of gentleness and patience?
- How do we respond to criticism or correction as a church?
- Are we quick to assert or quick to listen?



Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- How can BRBC show meekness in public witness and social engagement?
- Are there opportunities to serve quietly but impactfully?
- How can we pray for leaders and communities in need of meekness?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How can meekness improve communication and conflict resolution?
- Are there relationships needing gentleness and humility?

Questions

- How might meekness affect our leadership and decision-making?
- What would meekness look like in our outreach and service?
- How can we balance meekness with boldness in faith?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Practice responding with gentleness in difficult conversations this week.
- Reflect on Jesus' humility daily, asking for a meek heart.
- Identify situations where you can choose patience over impatience.
- Encourage one another with words of grace and kindness.

Questions

- What personal attitudes might you need to surrender to become meek?
- How might BRBC's culture change if meekness was a hallmark?
- How can meekness help us bear witness to Christ's kingdom in Horsham?
- Who can you encourage or serve meekly this week?

Closing Prayer

"Lord Jesus, You are gentle and humble in heart. Teach us meekness that trusts Your justice and timing. Help Brighton Road Baptist Church to embody this grace so we may inherit Your promises and bless our community. Amen."



Beatitude Study 5: “Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness” (Matthew 5:6)

Introduction

This beatitude speaks to a deep longing—an intense desire for God’s justice, holiness, and kingdom to be fully realized. It invites us to examine our appetite for righteousness personally and corporately, recognizing Christ as the ultimate fulfillment of that hunger.

1. Understanding “Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

Key Text: “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*” — Matthew 5:6

Biblical Insight

Righteousness here refers to right standing with God and just living according to His standards. To hunger and thirst is to yearn passionately and persistently.

OT Cross-References

- Psalm 42:1–2 — *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*
- Isaiah 55:1 — *Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters.*
- Amos 5:24 — *Let justice roll on like a river.*
- Jeremiah 29:13 — *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*



NT Cross-References

- Romans 8:3–4 — The righteous requirement of the law fulfilled in us.
- 1 John 3:7 — *Whoever practices righteousness is righteous.*

- Hebrews 12:1–2 — Running the race with endurance, fixing our eyes on Jesus.
- Revelation 22:17 — *Let the one who thirsts come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

Questions

- What does “righteousness” mean in your daily life?
- How do you sense your spiritual hunger for God and His justice?
- How does this beatitude call us beyond mere moralism to true heart transformation?

2. Jesus Christ: The Fulfillment of Righteousness

Jesus is the embodiment of perfect righteousness and the one who satisfies our deepest spiritual hunger.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Matthew 3:15 — Jesus submits to baptism to fulfill all righteousness.
- John 4:13–14 — Jesus offers living water that satisfies thirst forever.
- Hebrews 4:15 — Jesus was tempted in every way but without sin.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 — Jesus became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God.

Questions

- How does Jesus satisfy your hunger for righteousness?
- In what ways does His example inspire your pursuit of holiness?
- How can you rely on Jesus’ righteousness rather than your own?

3. Kingdom Implications: Satisfaction in God's Righteousness

The promise of satisfaction points to the ultimate restoration and renewal in God's kingdom.

Scriptural Connections

- Psalm 107:9 — *For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*
- Isaiah 61:10 — *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God.*
- Philippians 3:8–9 — Righteousness through faith in Christ, not works.
- Revelation 21:22–27 — The holy city where righteousness dwells fully.

Questions

- How does hungering for righteousness shape your prayers and actions?
- What does satisfaction in God's kingdom look like now and in eternity?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Are we encouraging one another in pursuing holiness and justice?
- How do we respond to sin and brokenness within the church?
- Do we celebrate growth in righteousness and transformation?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- How can BRBC advocate for justice and mercy in Horsham?
- What partnerships or ministries could help meet social needs biblically?
- How can we pray for righteousness and justice globally?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How can hungering for righteousness improve integrity and love in our relationships?

- Are there areas where compromise or sin need to be addressed?

Questions

- What does a righteous church look like in practice?
- How can hunger and thirst for righteousness influence our outreach?
- What barriers prevent us from fully pursuing God's righteousness?
- How might your personal spiritual hunger - or lack of it - impact the wider church family?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Regularly meditate on Scripture that calls for holiness and justice.
- Join or start a justice ministry or community outreach.
- Confess areas of sin and commit to repentance and growth.
- Pray intentionally for personal and communal righteousness.

Questions

- How hungry and thirsty are you for God's righteousness right now?
- What practical steps can you take to deepen that hunger?
- How might BRBC more visibly live out righteousness in Horsham?
- Who can you encourage in their pursuit of holiness and justice?

Closing Prayer

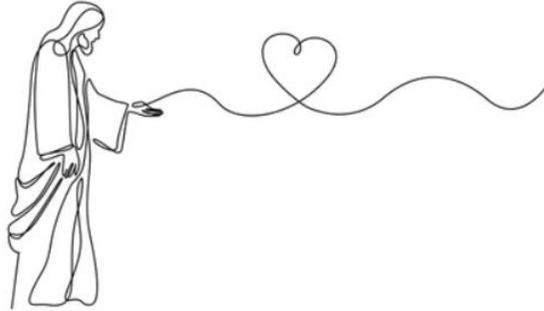
"Righteous God, satisfy our deepest longings with Your holiness. Help us hunger and thirst for You above all else. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be a people marked by pursuit of Your righteousness and a light to our community. Amen."



Beatitude Study 6: “Blessed Are the Merciful” (Matthew 5:7)

Introduction

Mercy flows from God’s heart and calls us to reflect His compassion toward others. This beatitude reminds us that showing mercy is both a mark of God’s kingdom and a pathway to receiving mercy ourselves.



1. Understanding “The Merciful”

Key Text: “*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*” — Matthew 5:7

Biblical Insight

Mercy involves compassionate action toward those in need, forgiving, and loving beyond obligation.

OT Cross-References

- Exodus 34:6–7 — God’s character as merciful and gracious.
- Micah 6:8 — What the Lord requires: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.
- Psalm 86:5 — God is full of compassion and mercy.
- Proverbs 14:21 — *Whoever despises his neighbour is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.*

NT Cross-References

- Luke 6:36 — *Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*
- James 2:13 — *Mercy triumphs over judgment.*
- Ephesians 4:32 — Be kind and compassionate, forgiving one another.
- Colossians 3:12 — Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Questions

- How do you personally understand and practice mercy?
- When is it hardest for you to show mercy?
- What are the differences between mercy, justice, and forgiveness?
- How does mercy affect our relationships and community?

2. Jesus Christ: The Merciful One

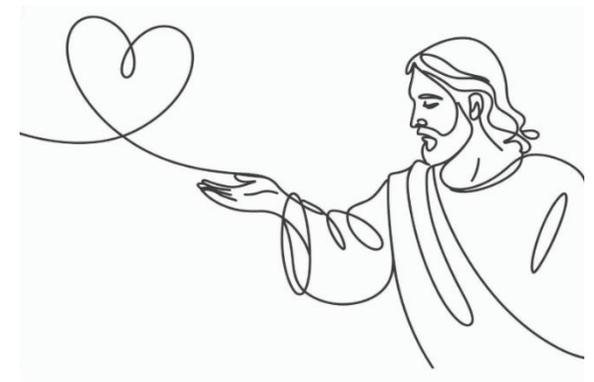
Jesus embodies perfect mercy, showing compassion to the marginalized, forgiving sinners, and healing the broken.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Matthew 9:36 — Jesus had compassion on the crowds like sheep without a shepherd.
- Luke 7:36–50 — Jesus forgives the sinful woman, demonstrating mercy over judgment.
- John 8:1–11 — Jesus offers mercy to the woman caught in adultery.
- Hebrews 4:15–16 — Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses and offers mercy and grace.

Questions

- How does Jesus’ mercy inspire your own?
- In what ways can you reflect Jesus’ compassion in your daily life?
- How does experiencing God’s mercy affect how you show mercy to others?



3. Kingdom Implications: Mercy Received and Given

Mercy is cyclical—those who extend it receive it.

Scriptural Connections

- Matthew 18:21–35 — The parable of the unforgiving servant.
- Luke 10:25–37 — The Good Samaritan as merciful neighbour.
- Romans 12:19–21 — Overcoming evil with good and mercy.
- James 2:13 — *Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.*

Questions

- How do you experience God’s mercy in your life?
- How does receiving mercy motivate us to show it to others?
- What might it mean for BRBC to be known as a merciful church?
- Where are we called to extend mercy more boldly?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Do we forgive quickly and generously within our fellowship?
- How do we bear one another’s burdens with mercy?
- Are mercy and compassion evident in our leadership and ministries?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- How can BRBC show mercy to those facing hardship in Horsham?
- How might we better serve vulnerable or marginalised people?
- How might we pray and act for mercy in areas of injustice worldwide?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How does mercy impact healing and restoration in relationships?
- Are there places where withholding mercy is causing damage?

Questions

- What challenges do we face in embodying mercy as a church?
- How does mercy intersect with justice in our community work?
- How might you personally practice mercy this week?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Identify someone in need of mercy this week and reach out with practical help or prayer.
- Reflect on God’s mercy in your life daily and thank Him.
- Practice forgiving someone who has wronged you.
- Volunteer with a local charity or support ministry focused on mercy.

Questions

- Where do you need to receive God’s mercy more fully?
- How might showing mercy change your relationships and community?
- Who can you encourage with mercy this week?

Closing Prayer

“Merciful Father, fill our hearts with Your compassion. Teach us to be merciful as You are merciful, reflecting Your love in our church, families, and community. May Brighton Road Baptist Church be a beacon of Your mercy in the world. Amen.”

Beatitude Study 7: “Blessed Are the Pure in Heart” (Matthew 5:8)

Introduction

Purity of heart is about integrity, singleness of purpose, and undivided devotion to God. This beatitude calls us to live transparently before God and others, reflecting His holiness in every area of life.

1. Understanding “The Pure in Heart”

Key Text: “*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*” — Matthew 5:8

Biblical Insight

Purity here means more than outward cleanliness; it is inward holiness—thoughts, motives, and desires aligned with God’s will.



OT Cross-References

- Psalm 24:3–4 — Those with clean hands and pure hearts will see God.
- Proverbs 4:23 — Guard your heart, for everything flows from it.
- Isaiah 6:5–7 — Isaiah’s cleansing of his lips and heart before God’s presence.
- Ezekiel 36:25–27 — God will cleanse hearts and put a new spirit within.

NT Cross-References

- 1 Timothy 1:5 — The goal is love that comes from a pure heart.
- Philippians 4:8 — Think about things that are pure, lovely, and praiseworthy.
- Hebrews 10:22 — Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.
- James 4:8 — Cleanse your hands, purify your hearts.

Questions

- What challenges do you face in maintaining inner purity?
- How do your thoughts and desires reflect your devotion to God?
- What practices help you guard your heart?

2. Jesus Christ: The Pure and Perfect Heart

Jesus is the sinless Son of God, perfectly pure in heart and motive.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Hebrews 7:26 — *Holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners.*
- John 14:6 — Jesus is the way to the Father, fully pure and true.
- 1 Peter 2:22 — He committed no sin, no deceit in His mouth.
- Luke 2:52 — Jesus grew in wisdom and favor with God and man.

Questions

- How does Jesus’ purity inspire your own walk with God?
- In what ways can you invite Jesus to cleanse your heart daily?
- How might purity of heart shape your relationships and witness?

3. Kingdom Implications: Seeing God Through Purity

Purity of heart opens the way to intimacy with God and reflects kingdom values.

Scriptural Connections

- Psalm 51:10 — *Create in me a clean heart, O God.*
- Matthew 6:22–23 — The eye is the lamp of the body; purity affects perception.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 — We are transformed into God’s image with ever-increasing glory.
- Revelation 21:27 — Nothing impure will enter the new Jerusalem.

Questions

- How does purity of heart affect how you “see” God and the world?
- How can BRBC encourage purity in worship, teaching, and community life?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- Are we honest and transparent with one another about struggles?
- Do we foster a culture of accountability and grace?
- How do we celebrate God’s work of heart transformation?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- How can BRBC be a light of integrity and holiness in Horsham?
- Are there ways to support purity in families, schools, and workplaces?
- How can we pray for holiness among leaders and communities worldwide?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How can purity of heart promote trust and love?
- Are there unresolved issues hindering openness or forgiveness?

Questions

- What does a “pure heart” church look like practically?
- How might purity - or lack of - affect our outreach and discipleship?
- What temptations or distractions threaten our purity as a church and individuals?
- How can you personally pursue purity this week? What is it that prevents purity and needs to be dealt with?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Spend time daily asking God to cleanse and purify your heart.
- Practice regular confession and repentance.
- Limit exposure to media or influences that harm purity.
- Encourage one another in accountability and prayer.

Questions

- What one change can you make to protect your heart’s purity?
- How might BRBC cultivate a culture that values holiness?
- Who can you support or encourage in their journey toward purity?
- How does purity of heart empower your witness to others?



Closing Prayer

“Holy God, purify our hearts that we may see You clearly and live for Your glory. Help Brighton Road Baptist Church to be a community marked by integrity and devotion, reflecting Your holiness to Horsham and beyond. Amen.”

Beatitude Study 8: “Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness’ Sake” (Matthew 5:10)

Introduction

This final beatitude challenges us to embrace suffering and opposition for the sake of living rightly before God. It assures us of God’s kingdom and reward, even when faithfulness brings hardship.

1. Understanding “Persecuted for Righteousness’ Sake”

Key Text: “*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*” — Matthew 5:10

Biblical Insight

Persecution here refers to suffering because of commitment to God’s justice, holiness, and truth, not for personal fault.

OT Cross-References

- Psalm 34:19 — *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.*
- Isaiah 50:4–7 — The suffering servant, steadfast despite opposition.
- Daniel 3:16–28 — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s faithfulness under threat.
- Habakkuk 1:5–11 — God’s justice amid injustice and suffering.

NT Cross-References

- 2 Timothy 3:12 — *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*
- Acts 5:40–41 — The apostles rejoiced despite persecution.



- 1 Peter 4:12–16 — Rejoice in sharing Christ’s sufferings.
- Revelation 2:10 — *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Questions

- Have you experienced or witnessed persecution for faith or righteousness?
- How do you respond emotionally and spiritually to opposition?
- What distinguishes righteous suffering from self-inflicted trouble?
- How does this beatitude challenge your understanding of blessing and reward?

2. Jesus Christ: The Persecuted Righteous One

Jesus is the ultimate example of suffering persecution for righteousness.

How Jesus Exemplifies This Beatitude

- Matthew 26:36–46 — Jesus prays in Gethsemane before His arrest.
- Isaiah 53:7–9 — The suffering servant silent before His oppressors.
- John 18–19 — Jesus’ trials and crucifixion.
- 1 Peter 2:21–25 — Christ suffered for sins, leaving us an example.



Questions

- How does Jesus’ endurance shape your view of suffering?
- What comfort or challenge do you find in His example?
- How can you follow Jesus faithfully when facing opposition?

3. Kingdom Implications: The Reward of Faithfulness

The persecuted possess the kingdom of heaven, highlighting eternal perspective and hope.

Scriptural Connections

- Romans 8:17–18 — Sharing in Christ’s sufferings with future glory.
- Matthew 19:29 — Rewards for those who leave all for the kingdom.
- Revelation 21:7 — The victorious inherit all things.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 — Focusing on the unseen, eternal things.

Questions

- How does the promise of the kingdom affect your perspective on trials?
- What does faithful endurance look like in daily life?
- How can BRBC support those facing persecution or hardship?

4. Brighton Road Baptist Church: Living This Beatitude Together

Toward One Another

- How do we encourage and support those suffering for their faith?
- Do we openly share stories of perseverance and faith?
- Are we prepared to stand with one another in times of trial?

Toward Our Local Community & Wider World

- How can BRBC pray for and support persecuted Christians worldwide?
- What awareness or advocacy might we engage in for religious freedom?
- How do we respond to injustice and suffering in our local context?

Toward Families, Friends, and Relationships

- How can we nurture resilience and faithfulness in families?
- Are there conversations we need to have about standing firm in faith?

Questions

- What would it look like for BRBC to be a community marked by courageous faith?
- How do we cultivate hope amidst suffering?
- In what ways can we prepare and encourage each other for potential trials?
- How might your personal faith grow through hardship?

5. Practical Action: Steps & Challenges

Suggestions

- Pray regularly for persecuted believers globally and locally.
- Share testimonies of faithfulness in hardship with the church.
- Encourage and support those facing trials within the congregation.
- Reflect on your own response to opposition and commit to faithfulness.

Questions

- How ready are you to stand firm in your faith during trials?
- What practical support can you offer to those persecuted?
- How might BRBC increase awareness and prayer for persecution?
- Who can you encourage to persevere in righteousness?

Closing Prayer

“Faithful God, strengthen us to endure persecution with hope and courage. May Brighton Road Baptist Church stand firm in Your truth and be a witness of Your kingdom through every trial. Comfort and uphold those who suffer for Your name’s sake. Amen.”



