

# Congrats, Loser

—Riddles from Q, Week 6—

*Matthew 5:1-12//Luke 6:17-26 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>17</sup> He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, <sup>19</sup> and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

<sup>20</sup> Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

If you would like to analyze these passages visually, you can: (1) put a box around material that is unique to either gospel; (2) Material that is shared exactly you can underline in both gospels; and (3) Material that is similar you can underline with a dotted line in both gospels.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

<sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

## Keys to Help Understand the Beatitudes (and the whole Sermon on the Mount/Plain)

1. *This teaching must be understood within Jesus’ broader message of the \_\_\_\_\_ as something graciously present and offered in Jesus’ ministry (for example, Matt 4:12-17//Luke 4:16-20, 43).*
2. *This teaching is said to be directed to Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_, that is, those who are followers of his and who have already been graciously been given a place in that Kingdom (though consideration of outsiders is also present, as in the “woes” of Luke 6:24-26).*
3. *This teaching is given in the context of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 5:11-12//Luke 6:22-23, 26), which means many of the hardships expected flow from this dynamic.*
4. *Jesus’ broader teaching of the Kingdom includes a \_\_\_\_\_, in that despite the Kingdom being \_\_\_\_\_, the Kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_ what it will be one day (for example, the parable of the mustard seed in Matt 13:31-32// Luke 13:18-19). This tension is present in the beatitudes as well, where the Kingdom “is” (Matt 5:3, 10//Luke 6:20), but the ultimate realization of its blessings “will be” (Matt 5:4-9//Luke 6:21).*
5. *Flowing from themes of persecution and the wait for final fulfillment is the promise of an \_\_\_\_\_. When the Kingdom comes, everything will be reversed and turned upside down, including all conventional values in life of what counts as winning or losing.*
6. *The Beatitudes flow from the \_\_\_\_\_, starting with our hearts and attitudes and resulting in actions either by disciples or against them. This must be born in mind lest the high expectations of the beatitudes (and found later in the sermon the mount/plain) be viewed as legalistic or unattainable.*

## The Bottom Line:

\_\_\_\_\_ yourself with the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
...by \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_, spiritually and otherwise.  
...by \_\_\_\_\_ at how often the church has aligned itself with the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.  
...by \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew’s emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_ and Luke’s emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_.

*Because spiritual habits most effectively change our desires and actions, I suggest you read and reflect on these beatitudes every day this week.*