

The Beatitudes meet the current administration

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I'm going to go out on a limb here and say many readers consider themselves to be devout Christians. And as devout Christians, you have no doubt heard of the Beatitudes, which come from Matthew 5.

Ever look at the current administration and wonder if they are among those being blessed by Jesus in this famous passage? Well, if you haven't, then you're in luck.

And the best part: you get to decide, as a devout Christian, whether or not His teachings are reflected in their actions.

Let's examine the evidence.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Let's start with a definition of "poor in spirit." I believe it goes something like this: "recognizing one's total spiritual poverty and utter dependence on God, rather than relying on self-sufficiency, pride, or material wealth."

Hmm. I wonder how portraying yourself as Jesus while simultaneously using foul language and claiming you have no sins that need to be forgiven contributes to this one.

But you get to decide.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Apparently mourning entails "the outward, public expression of grief following a loss, often shaped by cultural, religious, or personal traditions." This implies empathy and the willingness to show true remorse if you bomb a girls' school and needlessly inflict suffering on innocent civilian populations.

Again, you get to decide.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Again, the key word here seems to be meek, which describes "a quiet, gentle, and submissive nature, often characterized by patience and a lack of desire to argue or assert oneself."

If this is the attitude Jesus is advocating in this passage, I think it's safe to say the earth is in no danger of being inherited by anyone in the current administration, starting with the guy at the top. Rumor has it God opposes the proud.

But you can decide.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Righteousness is "a feeling or way of life that is all about doing the right thing: righteousness shows great concern for morals and ethics."

At its core, righteousness involves "a healthy respect for the truth and making it a guiding principle in all that is undertaken." Some would argue the current administration cares more about shaping the narrative than honesty. Whatever works in the moment.

But I could be wrong, so you can decide.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Being merciful is “the willingness to be kind to and forgive people.” I’m not sure if going on a retribution campaign to slander and destroy your perceived enemies going all the way back to kindergarten fits with this definition.

But maybe that’s just me. You get to decide.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Someone with a pure heart has “sincere, honest, and uncorrupted intentions, free from malice, selfishness, or hidden agendas.” Maybe enriching yourself and your billionaire buddies through insider trading at the expense of average citizens aligns with this one. Maybe not. What do I know?

So you get to decide.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Ah yes, the peacemakers, those who “try to influence people, organizations, or countries to stop fighting or arguing.” Venezuela. Iran. Again, I’m not sure how a might-makes-right philosophy squares with this one. Or if I would call those threatening to wipe out an entire civilization “children of God.”

Then again, you can decide for yourself.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Given that persecution is when someone is “subjected to persistent, cruel, or unfair treatment, often due to their beliefs, race, or identity,” we need to go back and revisit righteousness. Personally, I think the current administration will not be inheriting the kingdom of heaven. In fact, most of them should prepare for a scorcher.

But I’ll leave that for you to decide.

Finally, scholars don’t always agree on the last Beatitude, but I feel it belongs on the list as much as the other eight, so I include it here.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

My advice on this one: The current administration probably needs to enjoy all the rewards they can garner while they are still in this world. From my vantage point, the prognosis is not good any of them will have any reward at all once they leave here.

But... I’ll leave that for you to decide.



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