

## **THE BEATITUDES AS THE MIND OF CHRIST**

**The beatitudes are not the mind of Christ when spiritually distorted.** Review the beatitudes and their possible distortions that were shared in June. We will be taking four minutes to reflect and ponder. Let God show you an experience in your life that would reflect this distortion. You will have a prolonged period of time to go back to the distortion that seems most important to you at the end of this exercise. We will be giving you space and time to go deeper into a process of transforming the distortions into the mind of Christ later in the day. It may be helpful to observe your beatitude checklist from June.

**1. Blessed are the poor in spirit,** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit for the first time and quietly look into yourself and find a memory of when you were poor in spirit. Was it a time of acting out of humility or one of expecting perfection in yourself and others? How capable are you in living out of your limitations or is it a struggle for you? Is your poverty of spirit flowing out of your relationship with Jesus or do you get tangled up in feelings of inadequacy?

**Spiritual Distortion: I am supposed to be perfect and so is everyone else....to be God.**  
**Experience/Journal:**

**2. Blessed are those who mourn** for they will be comforted. Once again enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit and look into yourself to examine how you express your emotions. To what degree of honesty do you share yourself with others or do you like to infuse some drama into situations? Does that drama allow for negativity thus magnifying feelings of futility and hopelessness or can faith and trust in the healing power of Jesus allow genuine joy and gratitude to rise from the darkness? How comfortable are you in being present to others as they express their feelings with you without allowing your own drama to enter the picture? Can you hold the heart of another and listen quietly with the ear of Jesus bringing forth His gentle healing touch?

**Spiritual Distortion: Because I am not omnipotent and unable to fix negative situations, it is right to dwell in hopelessness, futility or absence.** **Experience/Journal:**

**3. Blessed are the meek** for they will inherit the earth. Enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit a third time and quietly look into your gentle spirit. Are you yielding and flexible or are you rigid and unbending within? Can your gentle spirit nurture your own needs as well as the needs of others? Can you respond to Jesus saying "Not my will, lord, but yours through me. Make me an instrument of Thy will." Do you trust in the promise of the Holy Spirit to give you the confidence to lead from a place of inner faith and strength? Does an external expression of false humility mask your true self and reveal a prideful spirit or can you get out of the way, making room for Jesus to manifest Himself through you.

**Spiritual Distortion: I can make things happen without being dependent upon God's grace and know....not to share that truth. (false humility)** **Experience/Journal:**

**4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness or justice,** for they shall be satisfied. Enter the hot balloon of the Holy Spirit and quietly ponder what you desire most in life. Above all else, do you desire what is just, what is right...that which is pleasing to Jesus? What is right? Do you see that what is right is what God wants, in other words what you need not what you want. There is only one conflict that has been fought throughout the ages...that is between two wills, the divine will and the human will. Do you desire Jesus' will above all? If so, your desires will always, always be satisfied.

**Spiritual Distortion: God certainly wills to give me the fulfillment of my own will.**  
**Experience/Journal:**

**5. Blessed are the merciful,** for they shall obtain mercy: Enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit and quietly look into yourself and find a memory of where you extended mercy to another. Allow God to show you this person and see what a gift they have been to you to provide you a means of obtaining Jesus' mercy for you and them. Join with Jesus in extending mercy towards anyone that has done you wrong. If anything, take note of your inability to show mercy because you have personalized or internalized their actions towards you. Ask for the grace to detach. His mercy toward those who were cruel toward him, merited the mercy from His heavenly Father. If it were not for His mercy towards them, they would not have obtained mercy from the the Father to be saved. More than any of us realize we hold the salvation of souls in the palms of our hands. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**Spiritual Distortion: I decide who receives God's hand of mercy or vengeance.**  
**Experience/Journal:**

**6. Blessed are the pure of heart,** for they shall see God: Enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit and quietly examine your purity of heart. Is your purity of heart flowing out of your love for Jesus? How do you approach the world? Or, are you a person who sees purity of heart as a no compromise attitude towards the world and are willing to separate yourself if others do not fall into your all or nothing mentality. Come to an awareness of the times when your brokenness kept you from purity of heart. A pure heart is the mind of Jesus.

**Spiritual Distortion: My relationship with God determines what is the mind of God and what is not for others.** **Experience/Journal:**

**7. Blessed are the peacemakers** for they shall be called the children of God. Enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit and quietly take notice of your body looking for peace of mind and heart. Is there tension? Are your thoughts or your feelings causing the tension? Do you experience knowing the truth by doing the will of God? Or do you fall prey to over-generalizing your experienced truth. A peacemaker must have peace within in order to share with others. How much inner peace do you have to share?

**Spiritual Distortion: My inner peace is the superior factor in determining God's will for self and others.** **Experience/Journal:**

## **8 and 9**

**Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness sake** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Enter the hot air balloon of the Holy Spirit. As the balloon rises, allow it to gently float over your life, like a quick time video? As you widen your vision of righteousness, see that Christ Himself experienced that suffering and His promises for those who follow in His footsteps. What do you see in your life? How much have you suffered out of love for Jesus or is your suffering distorted by assuming a victim attitude.

**Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me.** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. As you re-enter the hot air balloon for the final time, examine the depths of this beatitude. What do you experience? Seeing from a larger perspective, does your mind try to justify or defend or does this broader view of the beatitude give you peace? Is there resistance? How many times have you tried to justify your thinking or fall prey to trying to fit in? How much have you been insulted and persecuted for your love of Jesus? Or, does perceiving insults and persecution come from your value of what others should do? Can you truly rejoice and be glad?

### **Spiritual Distortion:**

**My suffering shows that others are abusive. It is not a call for my own spiritual growth but for correction of their ungodly behavior.**

**Disagreement with my values shows others are ungodly and causes me persecution due to Jesus' love of my values.**

### **Experience/Journal:**

Identify at least one spiritual distortion that you would like to take to Jesus for healing. Pour out your heart to Him in your journal about the relational consequence of living out of this distortion. Ask him to heal this distortion bringing you under His mind. Write about what you believe that you need from Him.