

Happy in this world vs. Blessed in God's Reign (Kingdom of Heaven)
The Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 5:3-12 (NRSV)

The right column are Jesus' sayings as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.
The left column represents a common world view of happiness in contrast.

Happy in this world

A common view of happiness in the world

Blessed in God's Reign (Matthew 5)

The blessed ones in the Kingdom of Heaven

Happy are the **self-confident** for they can do anything they want in the world.

³ Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are those whose life is always **smooth and pleasant**, for they will be the envy of all.

⁴ Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be comforted.

Happy are the **proud and mighty** for they will become the powerful leaders.

⁵ Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth.

Happy are the **self-sufficient**, for they will never lack anything.

⁶ Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.

Happy are those who **enforce the rules**, for they will be seen as law-abiding citizens.

⁷ Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will receive mercy.

Happy are those who can **maneuver** any situation **to their advantage**, for they will always get their way.

⁸ Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.

Happy are those who **fight for the right**, for they will be called heroes and patriots.

⁹ Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God.

Happy are those who **lobby vigorously** to enforce righteousness, for they will always be able to say that they are on the right side.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are **persecuted** for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people **praise** you and **lift you up** and say all sorts of **good things** about you, for you will receive ribbons and plaques and awards.

¹¹ Blessed are you when people **revile** you and **persecute** you and **utter all kinds of evil** against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.