

| Beatitude | Meaning | Corresponding gift | Corresponding section of the Sermon¹ |
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| Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven | Subject to divine authority; humility as a basis for all spiritual growth | Fear of the Lord | 5:20 – 24: the section on anger |
| Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth | The soul rests in its own place and has the solidity of earth; acknowledgment of the authority of Scripture: accepting its correction and praying to understand its obscurities | Piety | 5:25 – 26: make friends with your accuser (the accuser is Scripture) |
| Blessed are the sorrowful, for they shall be consoled | The discovery of carnal ties to the world; mourning the loss of the supreme good through inferior goods | Knowledge | 5:27 – 28: chastity of the mind |
| Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied | The soul labors to extricate itself from worldly attachments; on fire with love for righteousness, it overcomes vice | Fortitude | 5:29 – 37: plucking/cutting your right eye/hand; marital morality; avoidance of swearing |
| Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy | Perseverance in the struggle demands an appeal to a higher power; to be helped requires helping one who is weaker | Counsel | 5:38 – 48: not resisting evil or requests; loving enemies; being perfect as our Father is perfect |
| Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God | Cultivating a pure and serene mind to contemplate the supreme good, achieved through a sound conscience and good works | Understanding | 6:1 – 7:12: beware of practicing your piety before men; true prayer; cultivating heavenly concerns, not worldly ones; not judging others; perseverance in prayer |
| Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God | Contemplation of the truth brings peace to the whole person and establishes a likeness to God; pursuit of wisdom | Wisdom | 7:14 – 23: the gate is narrow that leads to life; beware of false prophets |
| Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven | Returns to the beginning and also denotes perfection; the mystical eighth degree of holiness | | |

¹ 5:13 – 19 (light of world, etc) serves as a sort of introduction (or rounding out of the beatitudes) and 7:24 – 27 as a conclusion. Augustine also aligns the beatitudes and the petitions of the Lord's prayer: see Book II, 11, 38 (pp. 88-89).