



Wayne's Words

Rev. Wayne Walters

Turning the World Right Side Up—By Memory!

The Beatitudes introduce Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount.' They are worth memorising and are actually designed for this purpose. Notice their rhythmic shape and sequence:

'Blessed are the ... for they shall be ...' And while in Greek the subject of each beatitude starts with the same letter, in English four start with 'p' (poor...pure...peacemaker persecuted) and three with 'm' (mourn, meek, merciful) in the sequence 'p,m,m ... m,p,p,p'. In the middle is the blessing for those who 'hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.' This serves as a 'middle' phrase around which the m-p pattern wraps itself.

Have a go at committing these verses of Matthew 5:3-12 to memory. It is a helpful discipline which the scriptures encourage, and which the Holy Spirit can then bring to our minds in a timely way to keep us 'right side up'.

God bless you, *Wayne*

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.