

Sunday, February 13, 2022
"Meet Your King"
Summary of What You Are Before God
Matthew 5:3-12
Wayne Shelton

Matthew 5:3-12 (focal vv3-5)



The beatitudes set forth the balanced and varied character of Christian people. John Stott rightly concludes: "These are not eight separate and distinct groups of disciples, some of whom are meek, while others are merciful and yet others are called upon to endure persecution. They are rather eight qualities of the same group who at one and the same time are meek and merciful, poor in spirit and pure in heart, mourning and hungry, peacemakers and persecuted." Further, the group exhibiting these marks is not an elite set of spiritual Christians. 'On the contrary, the beatitudes are Christ's own specification of what every Christian ought to be.' All these qualities are to characterize all his followers. Just as the ninefold fruit of the Spirit which Paul lists is to ripen in every Christian character, so the eight beatitudes which Christ speaks describe his ideal for every citizen of God's Kingdom. Unlike the gifts of the Spirit which he distributes to different members of Christ's body in order to equip them for different kinds of service, the same Spirit is concerned to work all these Christian graces in us all. There is no escape from our responsibility to covet them all.