



Ask, Father James:

Keys to receiving God's Blessing

There are many ways to obtaining blessing from God. However, Jesus in the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12) gave one sure way. By way of the Beatitudes, also called the makarisms, from Makarios, (Μακάριος) the word for blessing in the Greek language. These principles, called the "beatitudes" includes not only a statement about who is blessed, but also a short description of what is in store for each category of those who are blessed: For instance, Jesus says, the meek shall inherit the earth. The "poor in spirit" are prosperous; "those who mourn" are fortunate; so are "the gentle"; and "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness"; and "the merciful"; and "the pure in heart"; and "the peacemakers;" and "those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness"; finally, says Jesus, fortunate are "you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." Jesus means by all these that all those who embrace lifestyles based on the beatitudes shall be blessed and be happy. In other words, they will be "fortunate" and "prosperous" and are lucky ones.

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