

The Sermon on the Mount

Explanation

Chart 9-1 compares five versions of the Lord's Prayer. Each one is slightly different. In addition to the four prayers found in the scriptures, the fifth comes from a very early Christian handbook of instructions known as the Didache. Because the early Christians understood that this prayer was not to be rigidly recited verbatim, the surviving variations are not unexpected.

Similarly, chart 9-2 displays the Beatitudes found at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. These statements, beginning with the word "blessed" (in Greek, *makarios*; in Latin, *beatus*), promise ultimate blessedness, happiness, or beatification, especially in the afterlife, to individuals who have acquired the requisite attributes of righteousness. This chart compares the Beatitudes in three versions of the Sermon. Jesus gave basically the same sermon on several occasions, modifying details to suit the particular audience or setting. In Matthew 5–7, Jesus addressed faithful disciples at the outset of his ministry. In Matthew 5–7 JST, he addressed his Twelve Apostles as he sent them forth as missionaries. In 3 Nephi 12–14, he again presented essentially the same speech but now modified it to instruct a group of righteous people gathered at the temple in the city of Bountiful following his resurrection. Some people seek to find "the original version" of the Sermon on the Mount, but that quest may be guided by the faulty assumption that Jesus gave the Sermon only on one occasion. Ministering for over three years, he would have repeated his basic messages on several occasions.

References

- John W. Welch, *Illuminating the Sermon at the Temple and Sermon on the Mount* (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1999), 79–82.
- John W. Welch, "Two Notes on the Lord's Prayer," in *Pressing Forward with the Book of Mormon* (Provo, Utah: FARMS 1999), 228–30.
- Ernst Lohmeyer, *"Our Father": An Introduction to the Lord's Prayer* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965).

The Beatitudes

KING JAMES VERSION
MATTHEW 5

BOOK OF MORMON
3 NEPHI 12

JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATION
MATTHEW 5

Text unique to Matthew

Text common to all passages

Text unique to 3 Nephi

Text found in 3 Nephi and the JST but not KJV Matthew

Text unique to the JST

- Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants; and unto them I have given power that they may baptize you with water, behold, I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost; therefore** blessed are ye if ye shall believe **in me and be baptized, after that ye have seen me and know that I am.**
- And again, more blessed are they who shall believe **in** your words **because that** ye shall testify that ye have seen me, **and that ye know** that I am.
Yea, blessed are they who shall believe **in** your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited **with** fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.
- Blessed are **they who** shall believe **on** me;
and again, more blessed are they who shall believe **on** your words, **when** ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am.
- Yea, blessed are they who shall believe **on** your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized **in my name**; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

KING JAMES VERSION
MATTHEW 5

3. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
5. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are they **which** do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
7. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
8. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
9. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
10. Blessed are they **which** are persecuted for **righteousness'** sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
12. **Rejoice**, and be exceeding glad: for great **is** your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

BOOK OF MORMON
3 NEPHI 12

3. **Yea**, blessed are the poor in spirit **who come unto me**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. **And again**, blessed are **all** they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5. **And** blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6. **And** blessed are **all** they **who** do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled **with the Holy Ghost**.
7. **And** blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
8. **And** blessed are **all** the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9. **And** blessed are **all** the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
10. **And** blessed are **all** they **who** are persecuted **for my name's** sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11. **And** blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake;
12. **For ye shall have great joy** and be exceedingly glad, for great **shall be** your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets **who** were before you.

JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATION
MATTHEW 5

5. **Yea**, blessed are the poor in spirit, **who come unto me**; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
6. **And again**, blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
7. **And** blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
8. **And** blessed are **all** they **that** do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled **with the Holy Ghost**.
9. **And** blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
10. **And** blessed are **all** the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
11. **And** blessed are **all** the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
12. Blessed are **all** they **that** are persecuted for **my name's** sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
13. **And** blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
14. **For ye shall have great joy**, and be exceeding glad; for great **shall be** your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.