

The BEATITUDES to a Layman

(Matt. V : 3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are they who are lowly in spirit, empty of vainglory, who eschew acclaim, merited though it may be, content that virtue is its own reward, for they are fit dwellers in the realm of Eternal Good.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Fortunate are they whose hearts are heavily burdened, who turn to God as a child to his father, for they shall be consoled.

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

Fortunate are they who are gentle and friendly, for they are welcome every where in the world.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Fortunate are they who are consumed by a passion for justice with so much to mend and set right, for in their desire to serve they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Fortunate are those whose sympathies are deep toward those in error, misfortune or suffering, for they will not be helpless in their hour of need.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Fortunate are they whose hearts are incorruptible, whose vision no evil thinking distorts, for their eyes can perceive God's will.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Fortunate are they who bring harmony where there is discord, who promote among their fellows goodwill and understanding, for they shall be ranked worthy sons of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are they who suffer persecutions because they are resolute for that which is right — for them an abode of everlasting peace and happiness.

— M. C. Navia