

A wooden head silhouette is shown on a dark wood background. Inside the head, several gears of different sizes and colors (brass and steel) are visible. A magnifying glass with a brass frame and handle is positioned over the head, focusing on a large brass gear. The text 'Do we really want to be wise?' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Do we

really

want to be

wise?

Blessed – how not to start
your most famous sermon

Matthew 4.23-5.12 (NIV11)

Jesus went throughout Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues,
proclaiming the good news of the
kingdom, and healing every disease
and sickness among the people.

News about him spread all over Syria,
and people brought to him all who were ill
with various diseases, those suffering
severe pain, the demon-possessed,
those having seizures, and the
paralysed; and he healed them.

Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

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

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

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

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

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

They're not commands

They're not a list of
timeless truths

They're not a list of
virtues to pursue

Poor - abject poverty, destitute,
failures

In spirit – spiritually incompetent

Mourn – hurt, wounded over
anything

Meek – under the control of,
oppressed

Hunger and thirst for
righteousness – because they
don't have any

Merciful – the humble ones off
to one side

Peacemakers –
cowards, traitors?

They're not a religious formula

Blessed = a greeting
Congratulations

This list is The Gospel,
The Good News

From that time on Jesus began to preach,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has
come near.” Matthew 4.17 (NIV11)

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching
in their synagogues, proclaiming the good
news of the kingdom, and healing every
disease and sickness among the people.
Matthew 4.23 (NIV11)

Revelation 21.3-4 (NIV11)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”