

The Beatitudes

- Are more about being than doing. If we have acknowledged our true state of utter poverty before God, everything else should follow
 - God's love to us, in Christ, "while we were yet sinners", challenges us to be more Christ like.
5. Blessed are the merciful
- We have received mercy like the dying thief on the cross – totally unmerited, simply acknowledging our guilt, just sentence, and saying "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom"
 - God had pity on us. How can we not have pity on others? – even the ones we consider the most unlovely
 - Showing mercy and forgiving is not easy but is something God enables us to do.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart
- A pure heart is undivided: a heart completely given to God
 - Now, God still has a work of grace to do in our lives, creating in us a clean heart
 - In heaven, that work will be complete and we will be able to stand before God, not like we do now seeing in a mirror, dimly, but 'face to face'

