

## The King's Purpose for You, Step Seven

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Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Matthew 5

In the His introduction to His Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7), the King's Manifesto for His Kingdom, King Jesus reveals nine steps to your purpose and ultimate blessing in this life and beyond.

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## Pre-sermon Comments

### 2 Timothy 2:6 LSB

<sup>6</sup> The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

### John 17:17 LSB

<sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.

[Numbers 6:24-27](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> *Yahweh bless you, and keep you;* <sup>25</sup> *Yahweh make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;* <sup>26</sup> *Yahweh lift up His face on you, And give you peace.* <sup>27</sup> "So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

### Numbers 6:23 LSB

<sup>23</sup> "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

## Proposition and Outline

**Step One: Possess True Poverty ([Matt 5:3](#)) [Review]**

**Step Two: Persevere in Learning What Offends God ([Matt 5:4](#)) [Review]**

**Step Three: Pursue Lowliness ([Matt 5:5](#)) [Review]**

**Step Four: Pursue Righteousness ([Matt 5:6](#)) [Review]**

**Step Five: Prefer Mercy ([Matt 5:7](#)) [Review]**

**Step Six: Pursue Inward Purity ([Matt 5:8](#)) [Review]**

## **Step Seven: Pursue Peace (Be a Peacemaker) ([Matt 5:9](#))**

Step Eight: Patiently Endure Persecution for Righteousness' Sake ([Matt 5:10](#))

Step Nine: Patiently Endure Libel ([Matt 5:11](#))

## Sermon Text

[Matthew 5:1-12](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> And He opened His mouth and *began to* teach them, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.** <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## Introduction

[Romans 3:15-17](#) (LSB) <sup>15</sup> “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, <sup>16</sup> DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, <sup>17</sup> AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

### **Matthew 5:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

## Review

## Wrapping up the first four steps or beatitudes

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

## Step Five: You will Prefer Mercy ([Matt 5:7](#))

### **Matthew 5:7 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

## What is true mercy?

True mercy is always concerned about people's needs, no matter the situation. It is sympathetic and compassionate, even toward people caught up in the ramifications of their sins, including sin against us. It never seeks to take advantage of anyone. Even when our enemies find themselves under our power and control, mercy always desires what is best for them, including justice. Genuine compassion and justice always work together. The genuinely merciful will never overlook justice, yet will seek to show mercy even toward those receiving their just punishments for wrongdoing. True mercy was especially exemplified by our Lord Jesus as He suffered on the cross at the hands of His godless enemies.

## What is the result of preferring mercy or being merciful?

### **Matthew 5:3 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Step Six: Pursue Inward Purity ([Matt 5:8](#))

### **Matthew 5:8 LSB**

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

## What does it mean to be pure in heart?

## What is the heart?

In Scripture, the heart is much more than our feelings. It is the sum or totality of who we are. In addition to our emotions, it includes our intellect and will. It is the fountainhead out of which everything in our life flows. If our hearts are evil, out of the heart will come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false witness, and slanders ([Matt 15:19](#); [Gal 5:19-21](#)). If our hearts are pure, having the Holy Spirit, out of our hearts will flow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ([Gal 5:22-23](#)).

[Matthew 15:19](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false witness, slanders.

[Galatians 5:19-21](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

[Galatians 5:22-23](#) (LSB) <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## **Why does Jesus emphasize the heart?**

Jesus emphasizes the heart because man’s troubles always arise from his heart. Our problems have nothing to do with our surroundings. Our surroundings can help shape us, but our impure and sinful heart always leads us down dark paths. Adam and Eve sinned in the most fantastic paradise ever; therefore, the ultimate problem is not our surroundings but our hearts. We can trace every sin back to the impurity of our hearts.

## **What does our Lord mean by “pure in heart?”**

Being pure in heart means being single-minded in our devotion to the Lord, with no hidden spots or agendas. We must recognize that naturally, we have divided hearts like the double-minded man in [James 1:5-8](#). When we realize our heart's sinfulness, we mourn, and God begins cleansing our hearts, making

us single-minded without any spot or wrinkle. When we become pure in heart, we no longer have divided loyalties between God and sin.

## How do we become pure in heart?

We become pure in heart by faith in God and belief in His Word. He shows us the sinfulness - the impurity - of our hearts. We mourn over it as He continues to reveal it to us. This process is painful, beginning at salvation and continuing throughout our lives as followers of Christ. We must recognize that Jesus alone makes us pure. He cleanses us and makes us whiter than snow.

## How do we know we are pure in heart?

When we are pure in heart, we become painfully aware of and burdened by the remaining impurities which still indwell us. We start this process by mourning over our sins. We continue in the same fashion for the rest of our days.

One of the most conclusive evidences that we do possess a pure heart is to be conscious of and burdened with the impurity which still indwells us. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

## What is the result of becoming pure in heart?

[Matthew 5:8](#) (LSB) <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

### **Acts 7:55-56 LSB**

<sup>55</sup> But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; <sup>56</sup> and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

## Step Seven: Pursue Peace (Be a Peacemaker) ([Matt 5:9](#))

### **Matthew 5:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

## Is Jesus referring to world peace?

I just want to say – you know – can we, can we all get along? Can we, can we get along?

And uh, I mean, please, we can, we can get along here. We all can get along. We just gotta. We gotta. I mean, we're all stuck here for a while. Let's, you know, let's try to work it out. Let's try to beat it, you know. Let's try to work it out.

[James 4:4](#) (LSB) <sup>4</sup> You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world sets himself as an enemy of God.

[Psalm 5:4–6](#) (LSB) <sup>4</sup> For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; Evil does not sojourn with You. <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all workers of iniquity. <sup>6</sup> You destroy those who speak falsehood; Yahweh abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

## What are the characteristics of worldly peace?

## What is the nature of true peace?

### **Peace on the basis of righteousness!**

[Matthew 5:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[Matthew 5:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **The Kingdom brings peace!**

[Genesis 1:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

[Exodus 19:5–6](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> ‘So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

[Revelation 5:9–10](#) (LSB) <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain and purchased for

God with Your blood *people* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.<sup>10</sup> “And You made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”

[Revelation 11:15](#) (LSB)<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “**The** kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.”

### **Revelation 21:3–5 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,<sup>4</sup> and He will WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain. The first things passed away.”<sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

[Revelation 21:22–27](#) (LSB)<sup>22</sup> And I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary.<sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.<sup>24</sup> And the nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.<sup>25</sup> And its gates will never be closed by day, for there will be no night there;<sup>26</sup> and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.<sup>27</sup> And nothing defiled, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

The idea of peace, in fact, permeates the Bible. It opens and closes with peace. When God originally created man and woman and put them in the garden, it was a garden of peace. Then came the fall and peace was interrupted, peace with God was interrupted, peace between men was interrupted. Then at the cross, Jesus came and brought peace to the heart. Someday Jesus will return and establish a kingdom of peace, and in the ultimate new heaven and new earth we will enjoy eternal peace. So really, the story of redemption is the story of peace, peace forfeited, peace regained in the heart, peace regained on the earth, and finally peace regained in the eternal state.

## Blessed are the peacemakers

## Who are the peacemakers?

[Romans 10:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, leading to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, leading to salvation.

[Romans 10:15](#) (LSB) <sup>15</sup> And how will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

[Ephesians 6:15](#) (LSB) <sup>15</sup> and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

### **Luke 2:14 LSB**

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

[2 Corinthians 5:18](#) (LSB) <sup>18</sup> Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

[2 Corinthians 5:19](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

[2 Corinthians 5:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

### **2 Corinthians 5:21 LSB**

<sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Matthew 5:9](#) (LSB) <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

[Ephesians 1:5](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> by predestining us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

### **Romans 8:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> and if children, also heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

[1 John 3:1-2](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we would be called children of God; and we are. For this reason the world does



not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

The world hates -

**God's righteousness**

**God's peacemakers**

[John 15:18-19](#) (LSB) <sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.” <sup>19</sup> “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

The Gospel

[2 Corinthians 5:18-21](#) (LSB) <sup>18</sup> Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

More Quotes on being peacemakers!

Jesus' concern in this beatitude is not with the peaceful but with the peacemakers. ~ **D. A. Carson**

Both parts of the word “peacemakers,” taken together, describe one who actively pursues peace in its fullness. He pursues more than the absence of conflict; he pursues wholeness and well-being. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

The true peacemaker, contrary to what most people think, is not afraid of making waves. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

These two qualities of the peacemaker—honesty about the true status of peace and a willingness to risk pain in pursuing peace—beautifully anticipate the next quality, which is a paradox: *the peacemaker is a fighter*. He makes trouble to make peace. He wages peace. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

What then is a peacemaker like? To begin with, he is characterized by *honesty*. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

To be a peacemaker obviously means that one must have an entirely new view of self, and here you see how it links up with our definition of the meek. Before one can be a peacemaker one really must be entirely delivered from self, from self-interest, from self-concern. Before you can be a peacemaker you really must be entirely forgetful of self because as long as you are thinking about yourself, and shielding yourself, you cannot be doing the work properly. To be a peacemaker you must be, as it were, absolutely neutral so that you can bring the two sides together. You must not be sensitive, you must not be touchy, you must not be on the defensive. If you are, you will not be a very good peacemaker. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

Christ alone is the great Peacemaker. ~ **J. Vernon McGee**

It also means an entirely new view of the world. The peacemaker has only one concern, and it is the glory of God amongst men. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

‘Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.’ That, I say, is one of the best ways of being a peacemaker, that you just learn not to speak. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

Our desires become entrenched ... hence we fight and wage war. We *would* act as peacemakers if we obeyed the Lord instead of asserting our desires. But where you find quarrels and fights, you are witnessing people obeying the desires of a different lord. ~ **David Powlison**

Being a peacemaker is not avoiding the issue; it’s diving right into the middle of it and trying to bring about a righteous solution. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Peacemaking is a hallmark of God’s children. A person who is not a peacemaker either is not a Christian or is a disobedient Christian. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

God's people are to contend without being contentious, to disagree without being disagreeable, and to confront without being abusive. The peacemaker speaks the truth in love ([Eph. 4:15](#)). ~ **John F. MacArthur**

This takes note of the horrible contention and enmity which sin has brought into the world, for where there is no strife there is no need for peacemakers. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

Christians are the most forgiven people in the world. Therefore, we should be the most forgiving people in the world. ~ Ken Sande

A peacemaker is not, as is commonly supposed, the kind of person who is easygoing and *laissez-faire*, who does not care what anyone else does as long as it does not directly affect him. Neither is the peacemaker always tolerant—"you do your thing and I'll do mine." Nor is the peacemaker an appeaser—the kind who wants "peace at any price." Appeasement does not make for peace. It just puts off the conflict. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

God is the supreme peacemaker (cf. [Eph. 2:14–18](#); [Col. 1:20](#)) and this quality marks disciples out as his *sons*, for the son shares the characteristics of the father. ~ **R. T. France**

The peacemaker is one who is not always looking at everything in terms of the effect it has upon himself. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then they bring his love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life. ~ **Ken Sande**

Conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, to serve others, and to grow to be like Christ. ~ Ken Sande

God's peacemakers will not always have peace in the world. As Jesus makes clear by the last beatitude, persecution follows peacemaking. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

The person who is not willing to disrupt and disturb in God's name cannot be a peacemaker. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

The messengers of peace are believers in Jesus Christ. Only they can be peacemakers. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

## Step Eight: Patiently Endure Persecution for Righteousness' Sake ([Matt 5:10](#))

## Step Nine: Patiently Endure Libel ([Matt 5:11](#))

### Appendix

#### What does it mean to be blessed?

Blessing is the state of happiness in our inward selves. It comes from the acknowledgment of the reality of how fortunate we are to have a relationship with God the Father through Jesus the Son. This relationship produces an inner bliss and contentment that comes from an ever-increasing recognition of all that God has done for us and that no circumstance or set of circumstances can change our happiness or contentment in Christ.

#### Who is the source of blessing?

God Himself is the source of this blessing. We can only be truly blessed by partaking in His divine nature. As the psalmist promises, "In His presence is fullness of joy and in His right hand are pleasures forever" ([Ps 16:11](#)).

#### Who are the Blessed?

The blessed are those who have believed in the promises of Christ and are living in the present reality of the Holy Spirit living within them with an ever-increasing understanding of what He is accomplishing through them.

#### What does it mean to be Poor in Spirit?

God blesses a person who recognizes their spiritual bankruptcy or poverty. They have acknowledged their lostness in sin, hopelessness in life, and helplessness to save themselves. They must see that they are utterly unworthy of God and are

entirely dependent upon Him to save them. They have cried out like Isaiah, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts” ([Isa 6:5](#)).

## What does Jesus mean by mourning?

Godly mourning is a deep and abiding sorrow produced by the knowledge of our sins and how far we fall short of God’s glory. This mourning can only be experienced by those who have recognized their spiritual poverty and desperate need for God’s mercy and grace. *We see this type of mourning in the lives of saints like Isaiah ([Isa 6:5](#)) and David ([Ps 32:3-4](#) & [Ps 51:3-4](#)).*

## What does “comforted” mean?

The comfort Jesus refers to is supernatural encouragement that can only come from God Himself - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. He provides comfort or encouragement that comes from the Father and the Son. As believers who have come to a knowledge of sin, we are comforted from on high.

## What does Jesus mean by “the lowly, gentle, or meek”?

The lowly are those who have come to understand their utter unworthiness in the light of God’s holiness. They recognize their sinfulness and how far short they fall of His glory. Those who are lowly place no confidence in their flesh, finding their strength in Him alone. They have committed their way to Him, fully resting in Him. They have come to see their need to trust and delight in Him alone and have cast themselves on His mercy and trust in Him for protection.

## What does Jesus mean by hungering and thirsting for righteousness?

Jesus teaches that God blesses those who hunger and thirst for His imputed righteousness. These people recognize that they are entirely parched and

starved for a righteousness that is not their own - the righteousness of Christ. At salvation, God imputes Jesus's righteousness to the believer, thus satisfying their need and making them positionally righteous. The Holy Spirit also comes to dwell in them, starting the process of sanctification, which is the gradual and practical process of becoming more like our Lord Jesus. In other words, we slowly become what we already are in Christ.

## What is true mercy?

True mercy is always concerned about people's needs, no matter the situation. It is sympathetic and compassionate, even toward people caught up in the ramifications of their sins, including sin against us. It never seeks to take advantage of anyone. Even when our enemies find themselves under our power and control, mercy always desires what is best for them. Genuine compassion and justice always work together. The genuinely merciful will never overlook justice, yet will seek to show mercy even toward those receiving their just punishments for wrongdoing. True mercy was exemplified by our Lord Jesus as He suffered on the cross at the hands of His godless enemies.