

MATTHEW 5

THE BEATITUDES (5:1-12)

St. Hilary of Poitiers on humility as the perfect Beatitude:

“...He introduced the perfect Beatitude as humility of spirit. Therefore He defines those who are inspired as people aware that they are in possession of the heavenly kingdom.”

YOU ARE SALT AND LIGHT (5:13-16)

St. Chromatius on being illumined by Christ:

“The Lord has already called his disciples the ‘salt of the earth’ because they seasoned with divine wisdom the hearts of the human race which had been made tasteless by the devil. Now He also calls the ‘light of the world’ for, illumined by His very own self Who is the true and eternal light, they too become light within the darkness.”

CHRIST FULFILLS THE LAW (5:17-20)

Blessed Theophylact on how Christ fulfills the Law:

“First, He did everything which the prophets had foretold concerning Him...He also fulfilled every commandment of the law...And He fulfilled and completed the law in yet another way: whatever the law had sketched in outline, Christ fully painted in.”

TEACHINGS ON THE HEART AND RELATIONSHIPS (5:21-48)

St. John Chrysostom on “going the second mile” for someone:

“Do you grasp the excellence of a Christian disposition? After you give your coat and your cloak, even if your enemy should wish to subject your naked body to hardships and labors, not even then, Jesus says, must you forbid him. For He would have us possess all things in common, both our bodies and our goods, as with them that are in need, so with them that insult us. For the latter response comes from a courageous spirit, the former from mercy.”

St. Hilary on being perfect:

“It is merely human to love those who love you, and it is common to cherish those who cherish you. Therefore Christ calls us into the life of heirs of God and to be models for the just and the unjust of the imitation of Christ. He distributes the sun and the rain through His coming in baptism and by the sacraments of the Spirit. Thus He has prepared us for the perfect life though this concord of public goodness, because we must imitate our perfect Father in heaven.”

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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