

# The Real “Beatitudes”

Not Injunctions to be Passive  
But Emphatic Calls to Action



“Recent scholarship has found that previous translations of the eight beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew are in error inasmuch as they imply a kind of passive consolation in the face of tribulations. They are instead an invitation to stand up, to arise and walk forth, no matter what pain and trouble may [appear to] lie on the road ahead. When we return to the original Semitic terms underlying the Greek version of Jesus’ words in this gospel, we find that “blessed” should be replaced by “walk forth,” which restores the text’s original dynamic quality.” Jean-Yves Leloup, “The Gospel of Mary Magdalen,” published by Inner Traditions, copyright 2002, excerpted from pp.76-80

## **1. Walk forth, you in whom your spirit is held back and restrained by emotions and by fear!**

## **2. Walk forth, you gentle and humble ones, for your gentleness is your strength!**

“The earth resists those who are violent, and offers herself to those who respect her. To act more gently is not to act more feebly or slowly, it is to act with more consciousness and love.”

## **3. Walk forth, you who mourn, for you shall be consoled!**

“To mourn authentically is to accept that what is past is past, an indispensable condition for going further. This does not mean we should refrain from tears or other emotions, but that we are not to indulge in them. It means to pass through them, walking forth toward a higher serenity and more sensitive maturity.”

## **4. Walk forth, those who starve and thirst for justice! Yes, they shall be satisfied!**

“Thus those who hunger and thirst must not remain static, for they are on a quest; and the quest for justice, which is also holiness, can never be final. Yet this does not imply some perpetual dissatisfaction, but the knowledge that the perfectibility of humanity and of the world is infinite, an undertaking that can have no final conclusion.”

## **5. Walk forth, the pure of heart! Yes, you shall see Elohim!**

“To see the Other, our vision must be emptied of presuppositions and judgments. Hence in order to see God, it is even more imperative that we embark on a long walk - on of distancing ourselves from our projections, even the most seductively beautiful - that we often take for spiritual experience, even for an experience of God. But these have nothing to do with the divine Reality, for they are still much too bound up without ego and its infantile dreams of omnipotence.”

## **6. Walk forth, merciful ones! You shall receive mercy!**

“Happy are those who are able to remain sensitive to the misery and suffering of others... And we can never have a heart too pure and sensitive for the challenge of seeing another’s true potential, for both forgiving everything and demanding everything of another.”

## **7. Walk forth, peacemakers! Yes, you shall be acclaimed sons of Elohim!**

“Peace is the fruit of an artisan’s work. It is the slowest and most patient way of walking... Yeshua’s earthly father was an artisan who taught him how to plane and polish the most difficult woods. This is not unrelated to the patience and love that the Teacher needed in order to plane and polish souls so that they can reveal their beauty, thereby adapting better to other souls and fulfilling their own true service.”

**8. Walk forth, those persecuted for justice’s sake! Yes, the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Walk forth, when they insult and persecute you, accusing you of all sorts of crimes because of me. Be in joy and lightness, because your reward is great in heaven. Indeed, this is how the prophets who came before you were persecuted.** [translation of the beatitudes: La Bible (Desclee de Brouwer, 1989) by Andre’ Chouraqui]

“Yeshua is not saying, “Blessed are you, unhappy victims, be happy in your martyrdom.” He is saying “Do not let yourself be stopped by persecution, slander, and all sorts of violence. Use these as a challenge and opportunity for growing in consciousness and love. Discover within yourself the same patience (passion) I have found when faced by my adversaries. This is truly your opportunity to live the greatest of exercises, which is love of one’s enemies.” You will then discover within yourself that “terrifying force of humble love,” which is able to “forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Thus you continue to teach your enemies not only with your words, but with your acts. Walk forth, and announce the gospel of the Kingdom... You will live no more in the thrall of the empire of your past, your unconscious, or your social surroundings. Your acts will be determined by the most intimate part of your being, that place where nothing is forced, where it is Spirit that inspires you...

Walk forth, and announce the good news of knowledge and teachings that will be needed for this transformation in which human beings can finally begin to become fully human. Keep on walking on this road, where you become both more human and more divine. May each day bring you a little less under the sway of fears, inhibitions, and lies that are certainly the heritage of your individual and collective past, yet in which (consciously and unconsciously) you still indulge in the present. And may each day bring you more and more surrender to freedom and love. For these are fruits of your most beautiful dreams and of the purest desire that you can experience in the present.”