A deeper examination of Matthew’s Gospel shows that while the “code of conduct” laid out in the Beatitudes is meant for all people, one group in particular, those known as his disciples, are called to be formed by its values—personally, communally and collectively. Jesus’ disciples are those who follow him in his vision and effort to create an alternative community, defined by the Beatitudes, defiant of the wider culture. Following his way of wisdom Jesus’ disciples build their lives, their relationships as well as their church, to be a house built on solid rock so they can be “salt for the earth” and “light for the world.”

The Context for the Beatitudes and Matthew’s Gospel
The Beatitudes: A Call to All, a Chosen Way for Disciples
The Meaning of Beatitudes in Society and Scripture
The Call to be Poor in Spirit in a World of Riches and Entitlement
Developing Further What We Mean by Poor in Spirit
The Woman with the Alabaster Jar as a Model of One Who was Poor in Spirit
What the “Kingdom” of Heaven is Not
What is the Kingdom of Heaven and How Do We Enter It?
Blessed Are Those Who Mourn, They Will be Comforted
Applying the Second Beatitude to Our Lives
How Jesus Models the Third Beatitude
How We Deal With Threats to Our Wealth
How Jesus is the Model of the One Who was Blessed
Hungering and Thirsting for Justice in a World of Hunger
Acting Justly through Almsgiving, Prayer, and Fasting
Blessed are the Merciful, They Will Receive Mercy
Forgiveness: the Work of Mercy
Compassion: the Kiss of Justice and Mercy
The Blessedness of Having a Pure Heart
Single-Mindedness: Becoming Pure of Heart
Blessed Are the Peacemakers
Becoming Brothers and Sisters in the Household of Faith
Blessed are Those Persecuted for Justice Sake
The Conclusion of the Beatitudes

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