

## Chapter 2

# Jesus Defines the Christian

To each generation Jesus Christ answers the ancient query of the rich young ruler, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” with the timeless response: “Come follow me” (Luke 18:18, 22). The Sermon on the Mount reveals the essential character of Jesus. He defines the Christian to “his disciples” as one who, like himself, practices the beatitudes. Such are promised eternal life in the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: [“disciples” who continue serving diligently when discouraged in bringing others to Christ] for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted [in the kingdom of heaven where there is no mourning, pain, or death].

Blessed are the meek: [humble, gentle, long-suffering, not easily offended, self-controlled] for they shall inherit the [new] earth [which will be the kingdom of heaven].

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled [with the Spirit, the love of God, wisdom and knowledge in the kingdom of heaven].