The Beatitudes
Matthew 5: 3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Yesterday the Gospel was the list of the Beatitudes; "Blessed are the poor in spirit; Blessed are the merciful; Blessed are the single hearted; Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for justice." You say blessed but sometimes the translations will say "happy." In Spanish, *Beindiavos* or they will say *felices*. Scripture scholars, I understand, say that the more exact translation if you were to be really precise — more cumbersome but more precise — it wouldn't be "blessed" or "happy," it would be, "You're in the right place." You are in the right place if you are merciful. You are in the right place if you struggle for justice. You are in fact in the right place if they persecute you, or insult you, you're in the right place. It's about social location. It's about where we choose to stand. The Beatitudes is not a spirituality, it's a geography. It tells us where to stand. And now the Christian broadcasting network would have us believe that if we live the Gospel it will make us healthy, wealthy, and wise. But we know that if you live the Gospel it will lead to crucifixion, and that's more then a little okay, because that is where the joy is. Not is some masochistic sense. That's where the joy is. That's where Jesus is.

Excerpt of talk by Greg Boyle, SJ, at Creighton University, Monday, February 4, 2002,
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Seven Deadly Social Sins/Pat Carter