**The Beatitudes (Matthew 5)**

St. Augustine wrote that if were to lose the text of all the Gospels but retain only the Beatitudes, it would be enough.

The structure below is known as a chiasm (after the Greek letter chi, X) and is frequently used in the study of Sacred Scripture.

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

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

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

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

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.