



DEVOTIONAL WEEK #2 - THE BEATITUDES

The Scripture

Matthew 5: 1-12 - The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

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

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely[b] on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Devotional Questions:

These beatitudes may be familiar to you, is there anything new that spoke to you this time or may challenge you in your walk with God?

Why do you think Jesus started his teaching with the Beatitudes?

Think about the word blessed. In what ways have you heard it used? How can Jesus' use of that word tell us of His thoughts behind the Beatitudes?

The first four beatitudes focus on our needs, and on God's blessing - being poor at being spiritual and needing help to connect with God, our need for comfort in our mourning, our need for strength when we feel weak, our longing for justice and righteousness. Which of these needs have you felt in your own life, and how have you experienced God's blessing in your need?

The next three beatitudes call for an active response – to be merciful, to be pure in heart, to be a peacemaker. Where might God be calling you to be more merciful, and to work for peace?

Are there ways we as a church are being called to show mercy or promote peace?

The last two beatitudes warn that there may be resistance or even persecution as we seek to live as followers of Christ. Have you experienced either, and if so when and how? What makes it hard to follow Christ today?

Jesus ends with a call to change the world – to bring light to the dark places and to bring out the hidden goodness. How are we as a church changing lives – for our members, in our community, and in our world?

Devotional prepared by Ginny Johnson