

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: BLESSING

January 29, 2023

Preaching: Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



MATTHEW 5:1-12

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

2Then 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 righteousness’ sake, 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 on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. This passage, called the beatitudes, begins a longer set of teachings that Jesus gives to his disciples—all called “The Sermon on the Mount.” What do you make of the curious fact that Jesus begins with a *blessing*?
3. Which beatitude do you find the most comforting or challenging? Why?
4. Which of the groups that Jesus identifies as blessed do you feel closest to? Why is that? Which do you feel least closest to?

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