

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

*Blessed are those who can give without remembering
and take without forgetting. —Elizabeth Bibesco*

The Bible reading for today is from what is popularly called “The Sermon on the Mount.” The preacher is Jesus, and the congregation are farmers, mothers with their children, some curious onlookers, his disciples and perhaps some other, early followers of Jesus.

The sermon covers three chapters in Matthew, chapters 5-7. The first 12 verses which comprise today’s lesson are known as “The Beatitudes.” This word comes from a Latin word which literally means “blessed” or “happy.”

There are nine beatitudes in these verses, or nine “happies,” as I like to call them. As you read this paraphrased list, watch for *paradoxes*.

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

Happy are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Happy are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Happy are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

Happy are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Elsewhere in the Bible, we learn that when we are weak, we are strong. That a soft answer turns away anger. That God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). That in dying, there is life, as when a seed falls to the ground, or when the cross gives way to an empty tomb.

Living the life of a Christian is not for the fainthearted, because it is full of paradox. A godly life is a counterintuitive life. But it is also a blessed life. It is the ultimate happy life.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, help me to lean into the paradoxes of godly living ... loving, not hating; mercy, not judgment; peace rather than anger; kindness, not spite. This is the life I truly want. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lead Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Job 21-24
- Monday:** Job 25-27
- Tuesday:** Job 28-31
- Wednesday:** Job 32-34
- Thursday:** Job 35-37
- Friday:** Job 38-42
- Saturday:** Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

—Job 19:25

COMPOUND INTEREST

Take all of these words and create compound words using all the words once! 32 words = 16 compound words. EXAMPLE: flower + pot = flowerpot.

TUB

FOOT

FIRE

MOON

BOY

DOG

MAN

GRASS

BUTTER

BRUSH

BALL

SHINE

FLY

HOUSE

SUN

LIGHT

COW

GROUND

TOOTH

FISH

KEY

PLAY

BOARD

SHOE

BOWL

JELLY

BATH

BEAN

HOPPER

PAN

HORSE

CAKE

WRITE THE COMPOUND WORDS HERE:

- ANSWERS:**
 doghouse, fireman, fishbowl, toothbrush, football, sunshine (OR sunlight), moonlight (OR moonshine), keyboard, cowboy, playground, horseshoe, bathtub, jellybean, butterfly, grasshopper, pancake