

#blessed

The Good Life
According to Jesus

Cultures throughout history and around the world have been obsessed with defining and obtaining 'the good life.' Looking around at our culture, in this place and time, it would appear that the good life is a comfortable life, measured by an abundance of money and a lack of trouble. We think that these blessings belong to the beautiful and the

beloved, or are earned by those with the talent, intelligence, and determination to pursue them.

In the beginning of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, a surprising and disorienting list of who is blessed and what characterizes a blessed life. If we would seek the rich, abundant life that Jesus offers us, we need to come and sit at his feet and let him break down and replace our cultural expectations.

Daily Prayer

Today I want to:

Live with open hands
Mourn what's broken
Serve with self-respect
Use my power for good
Look with compassion
Seek first the Kingdom
Reach past difference
Suffer for love and live fearlessly,
following the way of radical love

Gesture:

open hands
head in hands
palm flat on heart
clenched fists crossed
hands form a heart
shade eyes and search
hands outstretched, clasped together
hands crossed, offered for arrest
arms outstretched on a cross

Reading Plan

4/5-11 Introduction to the blessed life

Matthew 5:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20
Matthew 5:21-26
Matthew 5:27-37
Matthew 5:38-48

4/12-18 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Matthew 6:19-24
Matthew 6:25-34
Matthew 7:7-11
Matthew 14:13-21
Matthew 17:13-21

4/19-25 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Psalms 6
Psalm 13
Matthew 6:16-18
Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 19:41-44
James 4:7-10

4/25 - 5/2 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Mark 10:35-45
Luke 14:1-14
John 13:1-17
Philippians 2:1-11
James 4:1-6

5/3-9 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Psalms 1
Psalm 106:1-3; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8
Matthew 7:12; 22:34-40
Luke 4:14-21
Galatians 6:1-10

5/10-16 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 6:9-15
Matthew 9:35-38
Luke 6:37-42
Luke 10:25-37
John 8:1-11

5/17-23 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Psalms 51:10; Proverbs 3:5-6; 4:23
Matthew 6:33; 7:16-20
Matthew 15:1-20
Philippians 2:12-16
I John 1:5-10

5/24-30 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Mark 9:50
Matthew 5:23-26
Romans 12:17-21
Ephesians 4:1-6
James 3:13-18

5/31 - 6/6 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Isaiah 53
Matthew 16:21-27
Luke 6:27-36
I Peter 3:8-17
I John 4:7-21