

**God's Kingdom: It's (Still) Not What You Think
It is no longer I who live...**

Matthew 5:1-12

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then 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. 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.

Seaside Finances			
Weekly Goal	\$22,195	Monthly Goal	\$95,500
Received Last Week	\$15,343	Received in Dec.	\$169,442

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Growth Group Discussion
For the week of January 24, 2021

Connect

What activity are you most eager to resume after the pandemic is over?

Reflect

Read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).

What point from Sunday's message touched you the most?

Explore

1. Describe the opposites of the eight blessings in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) and share one or two with the group. For example, "Miserable are those with corrupt hearts, for they will never encounter God."
2. The Romans despised the early Christians for displaying the attitudes portrayed in these verses, and considered such people to be weak. How does our society today reflect and/or contradict these Christian characteristics?

3. Describe a Bible character (other than Jesus) who lived out one or more of the Beatitudes. Include Scripture references.

4. Discuss the Christian's role as peacemaker (Matthew 5:9) in our relationships. See Romans 12:17-21. What are some risks of this activity?

5. The Beatitudes end with a warning about persecution (verses 10-12). What is persecution and what is not?

Verse 1

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

Verse 2

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 3

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

Bridge

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship
(REPEAT)

Verse 4

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

Hosanna

Verse 1

I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes yeah

Verse 2

I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

Chorus

Hosanna hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

Verse 3

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

Verse 4

I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

Bridge

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your Kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

Come To Me

Verse 1

I am the Lord your God I go before you now
I stand beside you I'm all around you
Though you feel I'm far away
I'm closer than your breath
I am with you more than you know

Verse 2

I am the Lord your peace no evil will conquer you
Steady now your heart and mind come into My rest
Oh let your faith arise lift up your weary head
I am with you wherever you go

Chorus

Come to Me I'm all you need
Come to Me I'm (your) everything
Come to Me I'm all you need
Come to Me I'm your everything

Bridge

I am your anchor in the wind and the waves
I am your steadfast so don't be afraid
Though your heart and flesh may fail you
I'm your faithful strength
I am with you wherever you go

Verse 1

You are able to provide
You are faithful in perfect time
Your goodness overwhelms
I am held

Verse 2

Through the fire You're my shield
Your protection never fails
No power can separate
I am safe

Chorus

You are bigger than all my fears
God of love God my love
You are bigger than all my dreams
God my hope God my peace
Whatever will come my way
Through each day I will say
God I trust You I trust You

Verse 3

You're the treasure I desire
I surrender my whole life
For Your glory my great reward
I am Yours use me Lord

Bridge

You are the God who always sees us
Even in bare and desperate seasons
No matter what the circumstance
You are the rock on which I stand