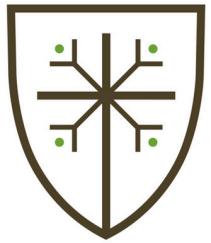




SERMON NOTES



February 1, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Turned Up-side Down"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Genesis 25:27-34

1 Corinthians 1:21-29

Matthew 4:23-5:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Last week, we talked about not simply being a part of the crowd but going out into the deep with Jesus. This week's crowd is a little different. Do you see yourself as one of those marked by a spiritual poverty that can only be satisfied by coming to Jesus? Why/why not?
2. Where do you see the Kingdom of God breaking in to transform your own little kingdom?
3. Which of the beatitudes do you find most difficult to see as a sign of God's Kingdom?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Tim continued our Epiphany sermon series this week with a look at what we know as the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are not what we would typically consider a "blessed life" by the world's standards. In the Sermon on the Mount, beginning with the Beatitudes, Jesus seems to flip everything we think we know on its head. If Jesus' blessing here is true, then what does he bless, how does the blessing come, and to whom does his blessing apply?

The What

The word "blessing" carries some baggage for us today. We seem to use it casually (every time someone sneezes!). But when Jesus uses it here, it isn't casual at all. He is declaring something to be true. It is difficult to translate into English but Tim introduced us to a Spanish word that captures the meaning - *bienaventurado*. This word carries with it the idea of a certain blessing in the future because you are now on the right path. For those who are on the right path of journeying toward God, these blessings are a certain thing.

The How

In order to understand how these blessings come to us, we have to understand the current reality of God's kingdom in our lives. The kingdom of God is his power infused throughout this world and exerted to rule our lives. We all have our own kingdoms. A kingdom is simply the place where everything is exactly how the king, or ruler, designs and desires it to be. And some of our "kingdoms" are quite broken and dark. There is one kingdom we all feel exerting power in this world, the kingdom of darkness. Jesus came to rescue us from that kingdom and from our own broken kingdoms. In his blessings, Jesus is asking more of God's authority to break over us so our little kingdom might be more and more conformed to his. They are declarations that God's work has begun to exert its power over our wills and our lives. The final question is, "can these words be true of you?"

The Who

The Beatitudes have a discernible break in the middle, between verses 6 and 7. The first four speak of a significant need or lack. The second four speak of capacity, what those being described do have. The people are new and different, with a capacity for the things of the kingdom of God. The text tells us that Jesus is speaking directly to those gathered - the broken, the sick, the lowest in society. Those who are congratulated by the world are conspicuously absent. Only the poor in spirit will come to Jesus, only those who have no resources but to look to him.

Tim closed with our Old Testament story of Jacob and Esau. All Jacob wants to be Esau in the eyes of his father, so he steals his blessing - the blessing the world says is rightfully his - and both lose everything. When they are eventually reunited, they are both different people. They have become spiritually poor and God visits them in their poverty. Jesus is the Beatitudes in the flesh, come to visit us in our poverty and, ultimately, to set us on the right path to God's kingdom.