

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Blessings for the Humble

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
April 21, 2024



- **What is humility & how do we grow in it?**

Matthew 5:1-12 (NLT) One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them. ³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. ⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. ⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

“A “blessed” person is someone who, because of a heart for God, is promised and enjoys God’s favour regardless of that person’s status or countercultural condition.” Scot McKnight

- **God’s favour rests on us when we are...**
- **Humble because we know our deep need for God.**

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

- **God’s favour rests on us when we are...**
- **Humble because we suffer.**

⁴ “God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

“If we are ever to fully experience oneness with God, He has to reveal our other gods to us so that we can let them go. We must also learn to live with Him in the single-mindedness of faith, rather than the pleasures even of spiritual experiences. This is what God does for us in the Dark Nights.” Thomas Ashbrook – Mansions of the Heart

James 1:2-4

- **God’s favour rests on us when we are...**
- **Humble because we hope in a coming Kingdom we don’t deserve.**

⁵ “God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.”

Revelation 21:1-4 (NLT) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.’”

Philippians 2:5-11 (NLT) “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

1 Peter 5:5b-6

Big Idea: Humble yourself before God & receive the blessing of His favour.

One way we receive this favour is through God’s comfort. We are...

- **Comforted by God’s grace & mercy.**
- **Comforted with the knowledge that our suffering has a good purpose.**
- **Comforted with strength to persevere as we hope for the Coming Kingdom.**

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today’s service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Blessings for the Humble
#3 of 26 - April 21, 2024

- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) Read Matthew 5:1-12. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) What does Jesus say about humility in the first three Beatitudes? Why is humility central to the Kingdom of God?
- 6) Read Philippians 2:5-11. What do we learn about the humility of Jesus and how does this inspire us to “have the same attitude of Christ Jesus”?
- 7) Read Revelation 21:1-4. How does this vision give us hope and courage to persevere as followers of Christ?
- 8) In what way does Isaiah 61:1-3 fulfill the Beatitudes?
- 9) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways do you need to apply this truth today?
- 10) Where do you need to grow in humility and what steps is God asking you to take today?
- 11) Take time to pray for one another.



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