

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia Message...

#### Blessings for Those Who Pursue Righteousness & Justice

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
April 28, 2024



*“The Beatitudes are the free availability of God’s rule & righteousness to all humanity through the reliance upon Jesus himself, the person now loose in the world among us...no human condition excludes blessedness, [for] God may come to any person with his care and deliverance.”*

*Dallas Willard – Divine Conspiracy*

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, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them. <sup>3</sup> “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. <sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. <sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. <sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. <sup>11</sup> “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. <sup>12</sup> 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.

#### God’s favour rests on us when we...

- **Yearn for God & His Kingdom of righteousness to be established.**

<sup>6</sup> “God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.”

Matthew 5:6 (NASB) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”

Matthew 22:37-40

Matthew 5:6 (MSG) “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.”

#### God’s favour rests on us when we...

- **Extend compassion to others like Jesus.**

<sup>7</sup> “God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Psalms 145:8 (NLT) “The LORD is merciful and compassionate slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.”

Matthew 5:7 (MSG) “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.”

#### God’s favour rests on us when we...

- **Pursue God’s will with integrity as our 1st priority.**

<sup>8</sup> “God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8 (MSG) “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.”

Psalms 24:3-6

Romans 3:22-24

Romans 6:11-14

*“We are saved by grace through faith alone, but not a faith that is alone.” Luther*

*“Those who have been touched by forgiveness and new life and have thus entered into God’s rule [Kingdom of God] become like Jesus, bearers of that rule [Kingdom of God].” Dallas Willard – Divine Conspiracy*

**Big Idea: Pursue the God of love & compassion & become like Him in heart & habit.**

- **Pursue your relationship with God.**
- **Receive the grace available in Jesus Christ.**
- **Live out the Kingdom by practicing compassion & justice.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today’s service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), The New International Version (NIV), the New American Standard Bible (NASB), and The Message (MSG).*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
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To get plugged in email:

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**Blessings for Those Who Pursue Righteousness & Justice**  
**#4 of 26 - April 28, 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 righteousness & justice in the 3rd, 4th, & 5th Beatitudes? What is the relationship between righteousness & justice?
- 6) Read Psalm 145:8. What do we learn about who God is? How does this truth relate to the Beatitudes?
- 7) Read Romans 3:22-24 and Romans 6:11-14. How does Jesus fulfill the righteousness and justice of God? What does this mean for us?
- 8) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways do you need to apply this truth today?
- 9) In what ways do you need to prioritize your relationship with God? What steps can you take to grow in your love and devotion?
- 10) In what ways is God asking you to extend mercy, & compassion to others. What specific steps can you take as an Impact Community to pursue justice where God has placed you?



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