

Thursday

Read Matthew 5:10-12 and 2 Timothy 3:12. What does it mean to be “persecuted because of righteousness”?

Have you ever faced persecution for acting on what you believe? How did that strengthen your faith?

How does knowing you will be rewarded for suffering help you face persecution?

Do you think believers in this country expect persecution?

How does your expectation change your response when persecution happens?

Thank God today for the freedom from physical persecution that we enjoy in America. Pray for Christians in other countries who don't have that same luxury. Ask God to strengthen you to stand firm for what you believe even if others mock you. Focus on the goal, not the situation.

Friday

Review your sermon notes. What stood out to you most and why?

How can you apply what you learned from the sermon to your life? (See James 1:22)

Thank God for His continued work in your life. Ask Him to strengthen you to apply what you've learned this week.

Saturday

Finish up any devotions you may have missed — and meditate on that memory verse! Pray for the church services this weekend. Pray that God will be glorified and that people will come to Christ.

René Schlaepfer
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*In the most famous sermon ever preached, The Sermon on the Mount, the most frequently used phrase is, “**You have heard it said... but I say to you...**” as Jesus offers a radical rethinking of every aspect of life.*

Theme of Sermon on the Mount: _____

First word: “Blessed”; Greek **makarios**, “ _____ ”

“Blessed” is used here _____ times in nine sentences

Characteristics of Really Happy People...

1. Attitude of _____

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” *Matthew 5:3 (NIV)*

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” *Matthew 5:4*

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” *Matthew 5:5*

2. Ambition to _____

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” *Matthew 5:7*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” *Matthew 5:9*

3. Appetite for _____

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” *Matthew 5:6*

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” *Matthew 5:8*

4. Approval of _____

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” *Matthew 5:10-12*

Bottom line:

Blessed are the _____

Resources used in preparation of this message:
Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*
John Ortberg's sermon comments on Willard's book

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

Monday

Read Matthew 5:3-5. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?

How can living honestly help you have real, lasting happiness?

Why is it sometimes difficult to admit that you need God?

What action step will you take this week to be honest about your need for God?

Confess to God today that you need Him. Ask Him to help you rely on Him for your life. Thank Him for His trustworthiness and faithfulness.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 51:10 and Matthew 5:6-8. How would you define "pure in heart"?

What are the benefits of a pure heart?

How can you build this character into your life this week?

continued 

What difference will being "pure in heart" make in your life and relationships?

In what area do you specifically need to become more pure in your heart?

Ask for God's help in this area. Ask God today to help you to have a pure heart and attitude towards God and the people you encounter today. Focus on Him so that you aren't afraid to live a life that is pure.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 34:14, Matthew 5:7-9, and Colossians 3:15. Recall a time when you chose to spread peace instead of conflict. How did that change the situation you were dealing with?

How can you spread peace in your life today?

What are the benefits of spreading peace and mercy?

Name someone with whom you need to "aggressively" make peace:
How will you be a "peacemaker" in that situation?

Name someone toward whom you need to show mercy:
How will you do this?

Thank God today that He has given us the ultimate example of mercy and peace. Ask Him to strengthen you today to imitate Him and be a peacemaker.



"Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6 (NIV)