

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

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November 1, 2023 • All Saints Day • Matthew 5:1-12a

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## Blessed Are We

*When Jesus sees the crowds who are following him, he goes up a mountain. He wants to make sure everyone can see and hear him as he tells them how they can find happiness.*

**M**oses went up a mountain to receive the Ten Commandments, and in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus went up a mountain to give us the Beatitudes. The Ten Commandments are a set of laws to help us live in harmony with God's love. The Beatitudes are broader and more subtle. They offer a vision and suggest a self-giving attitude that goes beyond the Commandments.

The Beatitudes talk about the poor and those who mourn, those who are hungry for justice, those who are merciful and peacemakers, those who are pure in heart, and those who are persecuted. Jesus tells us that all of these people will be happy. They will be blessed. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is just reminding us that life is difficult. Each of us will face our own hardships. We need to remember that nothing—not poverty or deep loss or suffering, not the worst injustice — can triumph over us. Jesus offers his own strength and endurance, his assurance that we will not be alone. We are blessed. We are gifted not only with faith, but with hope.

The Beatitudes ask us to be meek, not the doormat sort of meek, but the biblical idea of meek—tol-

erant and unassuming. We are to be poor in spirit. Money and possessions should not own us. We are to be peacemakers and hunger and thirst after justice. The Beatitudes offer a positive way to respond to difficult life experiences. They encourage us to live in a self-possessed, positive way.

Finding the Kingdom of God is not just about keeping the Ten Commandments; it's keeping the commandments with the right attitudes—the Beatitudes.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk to your family about what difficulties they are facing this week. Encourage each other to be tolerant. Pray together to find ways your family members can be peacemakers.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Which of the beatitudes do we find most difficult to live?