

## Lent 2023 - Week 6

### The Beatitudes and Jesus

Let us Pray

please join in with words in bold

May the Lord Almighty lead us to Jesus; May the Lord Almighty give us grace to follow Jesus in the way that leads to Eternal Life; May the Lord Almighty show us the power of His Death and Resurrection as we turn away from our sin, and turn back to Him.

**Most merciful God, we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ.**

**Amen.**

That this day may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our daily prayers rise before you, O God,  
**so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.**

**Amen**

## Song

## My Jesus, My Saviour

*Darlene Zschech. Copyright © 1993 Darlene Zschech//Kingsway's Thankyou Music.*

*My Jesus, my saviour,  
Lord, there is none like You.  
All of my days I want to praise  
The wonders of Your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
Tower of refuge and strength,  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
Never cease to worship You.*

*Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
let us sing  
Power and majesty,  
praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down  
And the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy  
at the work of Your hands.  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the  
Promise I have in You.*

## The Beatitudes

Jesus said:

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.**

**Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

## Reflections from last week

### Bible Reading: Matt 23:13-39

<sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

<sup>15</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.<sup>16</sup> “Woe to you, blind guides!

You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.’<sup>17</sup> You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?<sup>18</sup> You also say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.’<sup>19</sup> You blind men!

Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?<sup>20</sup> Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.<sup>21</sup> And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it.<sup>22</sup> And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth\* of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.<sup>24</sup> You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.<sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.<sup>28</sup> In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous.<sup>30</sup> And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken

part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' <sup>31</sup> So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup> Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started! <sup>33</sup> "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? <sup>34</sup> Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. <sup>35</sup> And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.

<sup>37</sup> "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. <sup>38</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

## Reflection – Woe

### Our Lent Conversation – part 1

Which is more effective, a carrot or a stick?

Compare the consequences for the blessed vs the woe'd. Which are you?

Are we in danger of these woes addressing us?

How can we guard ourselves against becoming like the teachers of the law and pharisees?

## Bible Reading: Matthew 26:36-56

## Reflection – Gethsemane

### Our Lent Conversation – Part 2

How do you feel when you read this?

What can we learn from Jesus about being under stress? Or being conflicted about what is right? Or about facing opposition from friends and non-friends?

Is Jesus blessed?

Is suffering ever worth it?

## Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;
- 2 Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
- 3 If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you. \*
- 5 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.
- 6 I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
- 7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.
- 8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

## Song

## You chose the cross

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*You chose the cross with  
every breath,  
The perfect life, the perfect death:  
You chose the cross.  
A crown of thorns You wore for us,  
And crowned us with eternal life:  
You chose the cross.  
And though Your soul was  
overwhelmed with pain,  
Obedient to death You overcame.  
I'm lost in wonder,  
I'm lost in love,  
I'm lost in praise forevermore.  
Because of Jesus' unfailing love  
I am forgiven, I am restored.*

*You loosed the cords of sinfulness  
And broke the chains of my disgrace:  
You chose the cross.  
Up from the grave victorious,  
You rose again so glorious:  
You chose the cross.  
The sorrow that surrounded You  
was mine,  
'Yet not My will but Yours be done!'  
You cried.*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord make his face shine upon us  
and be gracious to us; the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

**Amen.**