

## Blessing— Happy are the Unhappy—04.26.2020

Scripture: Matthew 5.1-12

### **Scripture:**

#### **Matthew 5.1-12**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,<sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.**

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#### **Revelation 21.3-4**

**3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

### **Summary:**

This week, we continued the series called Blessing. Again, we’re talking about blessings in a time of global pandemic! You can ask God for a blessing and you can recognize the blessings that you already have. Both are fine. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed that a whole series of people who don’t seem to be blessed are blessed already. Join Pastor Jacob on Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/provumc/>) on Tuesday evening at 6:30. He’ll be diving deeper into the sermon on the Mount and teaching from his book A New Playlist: Hearing Jesus in a Noisy World.

### **Study:**

I encourage you as an individual or as a small group to tune in or watch a replay as you dive into your weekly study.

- How have you seen a connection between mourning and joy in your life?
- Jacob shared about the Biblical idea of lament. Lament is giving expression to your grief. Do you find it easy or difficult to share your laments? What might keep you from doing that? What is the benefit of sharing your lamentations? (mourning is the doorway to joy!)

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- Read Revelation 21.3-4. Fleeting happiness is not the same thing as lasting joy. Ultimately our comfort and joy are in this big promise that Jesus will return and the old order of things will pass away. Our mourning will not last forever. What are some ways you can keep that image close to your heart in seasons of mourning?

### **A Litany of Blessing**

What are your mourning? Make a list of things you and those around you are mourning in these days. Add them to Jacob's beatitudes that he shared in the message.

Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they will \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **Jacob's Beatitudes:**

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

Blessed are those who are missing their prom this weekend, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those healthcare workers who haven't seen their families in weeks cause they are quarantined, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who can't have their mother's funeral right now, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those in leadership positions who agonize over making the right decisions regarding public safety, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the 89 year olds who are confined to their rooms in the 6th week of no visits from family, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the tornado victims who are quarantining not in their homes but rented apartments and temporary housing, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the teachers who did not get to bid farewell and impart all they wanted to their students, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who had just got their struggle with depression under control and now this and it all came unraveled, for they will be comforted.

## **Blessing— Happy are the Unhappy—04.26.2020**

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Blessed are the children still getting chemo treatment who cry when they have to return, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the grandmothers who see Mother's Day coming and may not see their children, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the parents of high school seniors who envisioned back patio grill out celebrations and sitting in the seats of arena cheering on their graduate, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are ICU doctors and nurses who made an oath that now seems so heavy and hard, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are family members who mourn the loss of loved ones to coronavirus and they ache, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who feel afraid right now, and it makes anxious tears well up in their eyes that they can't even make sense of, for they will be comforted.