Sunday, November 1, 2026

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus went into the great display window of life and changed all the price tags. —Anon.

Many of us no doubt grew up with a picture of "the blessed life" that included happiness, health, security and success. But when Jesus climbs the hillside and opens his mouth to speak to the multitudes who have gathered to listen, he turns all our assumptions inside out. The Beatitudes of today's gospel reading aren't rewards for the strong — they're gifts for the struggling.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."
"Blessed are those who mourn."
"Blessed are the meek."
"Blessed are the peacemakers."

It's an upside-down kingdom.

Jesus isn't telling people how to *become* blessed; he's announcing that *God is already present* with those who feel small, weary, overlooked and wounded. God's blessing isn't the absence of hardship, but the assurance of the divine presence. This is good news for those who find themselves navigating physical limitations, grief, loneliness or transition. Jesus says to us, "You are blessed not because your circumstances are easy — which they aren't — but because God's kingdom has drawn near to you."

Each beatitude carries a promise. The mourners will be comforted. The merciful will receive mercy. The pure in heart will see God. The peacemakers will be called children of God. In this way, Jesus begins to stitch some hope into the seams of human pain.

And the final blessing — "Blessed are you when people revile you" — reminds us that following Christ may bring misunderstanding, but never abandonment.

The Beatitudes call us to live with open hands and open hearts, trusting that God notices what the world refuses to value. These wonderful words ask us to be gentle in a harsh world, hopeful in a cynical one and faithful in a fearful one. Why? Because the truest blessings are often hidden inside ordinary days: a quiet prayer, a small kindness, a moment of peace, a glimpse of God's goodness.

In Jesus' kingdom, the overlooked are honored, the weary are welcomed and the humble are held. And that is blessing enough for today.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for blessing us in ways deeper than comfort or success. Make us gentle, grateful and faithful as we walk in the way of our risen Lord. Amen.

HomeTouch® Activity Page

Week of November 1, 2026

Daily Bible Readings
Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4-6
Monday: Nehemiah 10-13
Tuesday: Micah 1-4
Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 7-9
Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10-13
Friday: Acts 20-22
Saturday: Psalms 127-129

Verse to Remember

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127:1

Walk the Line

DIRECTIONS: Below you see letters of the alphabet above or below the line. Think about why they are arranged in this way. Finish writing the alphabet by correctly putting the letters either above or below the line.

A E F H I K L M N

B C D G J O P

The Family Motto

DIRECTIONS: This motto can be seen over the fireplace of the 18th-century home of the McFarland family, but some of the letters have fallen off. What is the motto?

S_R_K_ W_I_E _H_ I_O_'S H_T

100!

Take the numbers
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
and arrange them so that they add up to 100.

Answers

100:

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  1     6
  2    14
 34    23
 56    57
  7   ___
 ___  100
100
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Walk the Line: The letters above the line are made with straight lines; the letters below the line have curves.

The Family Motto: "Strike While the Iron's Hot"