

St Martins C3 – February 1, 2026

#Blessed – *Upside Down Kingdom*

Sermon Notes:

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Disciples listen to what Jesus taught and they do what he says. As we explore, the Sermon on the Mount, we find ways to obey Jesus and to re-orient our values. Jesus presents a completely Upside-down Kingdom!

Read Matthew 5:1-12

The way to the blessing of God is the narrow way. It confronts our ways of seeing the world and challenges us to rely on God.

The Greek word *makarios*, which is translated *blessed*, means that it is wonderful news even if it doesn't feel like it. These are nine values of a disciple of Jesus.

Poor in Spirit - *A disciple is dependent on God*

The poor in spirit are those who, in absolute poverty of spirit, are solely dependent upon God.

Mourners - *A disciple processes loss and receives the comfort God offers*

Those who mourn, allow themselves to step into grief in order to process loss and find the great comforter.

Meek - *A disciple shows humble and controlled strength*

Meekness is not weakness, it is strength that holds back.

Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness – *A disciple is desperate for more of God*

If a right relationship is your top value then even when hungering and thirsting you'll be the most satisfied person.

Show Mercy – *A disciple is ready to show mercy*

At the moment you care for others you are cared for.

Pure in Heart – *A disciple is completely devoted to God*

Those who seek God with an undivided heart will have a greater vision of Him.

Peacemakers – *A disciple works for peace*

It is the peacemakers, not the great warriors (or the peacekeepers and pacifists) who are truly God's children.

Persecuted for Righteousness and for Jesus – *A disciple perseveres even when mistreated for doing what is right*

Living for righteousness or justice will make you unpopular with others.

Our response is to:

1 – Accept God's Grace

The upside down kingdom is for the overlooked and lost.

Those completely dependent on Jesus.

2 – Challenge Our Values

Resist the values of the world and embrace these instead.

3 – Don't Run Away from Difficulty

Let difficulty be your teacher. Don't be a doormat, but let hard times draw you to God.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

Jesus challenges the values of our world and calls his disciples to dependence on him and care for others.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

Where do we seek worldly blessings instead of God's definition of blessing?

How does it comfort you to know that a relationship with God is offered to those who don't have it all together?

The beatitudes are values to emulate rather than things to do. Why is this important?

Which beatitudes speak most to you and why?

How can you incorporate these values in your life if you are not currently, for example, mourning or feeling poor in spirit?

What are some ways you can show these values in your relationship *with others* this week?

Why do we try and escape from difficulty? How is this damaging? How can we allow difficulty to draw us to God? When do we know we need to step away from a hard situation rather than persevere?

Monday Devotion: Introducing SOAP

Read Matthew 5:1-12

For this series, we are going to do our devotional notes, slightly different. The aim of these notes is always to give you something to help you go deeper after Sunday's sermon.

Often, Warren and I choose scriptures that we didn't have time to include on Sunday or are complimentary to the vibe of the sermon. The purpose, always, is to help you grow.

So, with that goal in mind, we are going to mix it up. We want to encourage you to process the sermon and make it part of your life by using the SOAP method.

Scripture

Identify the scripture for the day (we'll give it to you) and read it a few times, meditating on it.

Observation

As you meditate on scripture, what stands out to you? Keep in mind what it meant to the original audience and the principle for all people.

Application

What can you apply in your life from this scripture?

Prayer

What prayer rises up from you as you consider all of this?

We would love your feedback. Is this helpful or do you prefer the devotionals? Happy SOAPing!

Tuesday Devotion

Scripture

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:3-4

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion

Scripture

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:5-6

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion

Scripture

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.

Matthew 5:7-9

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion

Scripture

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

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
