

## Blessed Are

The Gospel reading for today from Luke 6, sometimes called the “Sermon on the Plain”, is a shorter version of Matthew’s Beatitudes from the “Sermon on the Mount”. The passage begins by telling about how the crowd came to hear and be healed. The people were troubled by impure spirits. Jesus cured them by the power radiating from him which was felt by the people around him.

“Blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom...” Matthew's version uses the phrase “poor in spirit”. This indicates that people are utterly dependent on God. They have recognized their spiritual need for salvation.

It can also relate to money and the need to rely on God to provide. The “kingdom” that Luke names can be understood to mean growing closer to God or seeking Him in every aspect of one’s life.

The hungry will be filled. The words “hunger and thirst for righteousness” means a deep desire for justice, holiness, and God’s will. Those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” eagerly desire personal rightness and social justice. Use of the word “hunger” reminds us that we do not live on bread alone, but the Word of God. We will be filled. We pursue justice, mercy, and Godly living in all areas of life. It is a relationship with Jesus that satisfies. God always provides.

Those who weep will have joy. When we weep, it shows that we care, and God comforts those who grieve and suffer. He is sensitive to both our sins and our needs. Even Jesus wept. (The words “Jesus wept” are known as the shortest verse in the Bible.) God understood.

There will be joy in the morning. We can be assured that if a situation is not yet good, it means that God is not yet finished with it. Trust in God’s timing and his healing.

The Bible prepares us for when people hate us on account of Jesus. This means standing firm in our faith even when faced with opposition, using words and actions to show who Jesus is, staying committed to what is right.

Rejoice because our reward is in Heaven. We know this as we persevere in Christian ways and live in God's ways.