

“One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.

“ Matthew 5:1-2 NLT

lectio // Matthew 5:1-12

And he began to teach! Here it is, **CONTENT**. God's living, breathing, working soul-scalpel. What does Jesus say. God blesses those who:

- are poor and realize their need for him,
- mourn,
- are humble,
- hunger and thirst for justice,
- are merciful,
- whose hearts are pure,
- work for peace,
- are persecuted for doing right,
- when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

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Dad,

I notice that are blessed (made happy) when we behave in character with who you are. And we get quite the opposite from those who behave outside who you are. The expectations are all flipped around. So we might get along with the people who are (unknowingly) opposed to you if we just go along with what everyone else says is right. I like that my struggles of getting along in this world have something to do with being connected to you as a Christ follower. I want to be known for that! I don't want the republican/democrat label, nor the conservative/liberal label nor the LGBTQ/Bigot label, nor the atheist/religious label. Jesus, you are the ONLY label I care about living out!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root