



BIBLE BOOST

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Beatitudes

When Jesus began his public ministry, he went around all of Galilee, teaching all who would hear. Great crowds followed him. To a crowd that had gathered to hear him, Jesus taught the Beatitudes, in which he described the qualities those who are part of the Kingdom of God must have, and ways in which they will be blessed. The Beatitudes are part of what is known as the Sermon on the Mount.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

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

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

—Matthew 5:1–12



START LIVING



In the Beatitudes, Jesus extols those who are merciful, assuring them of God's mercy.

Describe acts of mercy you show or can show in your everyday life that would be pleasing to Jesus.

The qualities Jesus praises in the Beatitudes are often very different from what society values. For each of the following socially desirable qualities, provide an alternative from the Beatitudes, and tell why it is a better alternative.

Socially Valued	The Alternative
material wealth	<hr/> <hr/>
popularity	<hr/> <hr/>
power and influence	<hr/> <hr/>



During the Mass

The Scripture passage of the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus teaches us the Beatitudes, is read on the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time during Year A. See pages 218–219.