

ALL SAINTS' DAY 2018 (Observed)

Matthew 5

- 1 Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.

- 2 Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee. Amen.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹

In the Name of Jesus.

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²

Jesus rejoiced; Jesus was glad; heaven revealed on earth, IN HIM, to the little ones, the disciples, these things. What things?

That you will come out of this great tribulation, little ones of the Father. And He will wipe away every tear from your eyes,

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 5:11–12). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 11:25–26). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

your King, your Shepherd, the GOD Who has DEFINED HIMSELF by your name. Who are these? He knows.

It must be fair to ask: If God is so utterly with His own even now, why, now, all the words of persecution and reviling?

Well... What do the hymns of the Church teach us?

3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me,
From sin's bondage set me free.

HERE is your memorization project for this week, my dear ones! 'Jesus is NOT Moses!'

Now, repeat that one zillion times every day this week—that's a good start!

I will tell you your poor preacher's nightmare. It is happening right now!

I am WIRED and TWISTED to turn Jesus into a Moses.

If I do the OPPOSITE of all my inclinations, here's the summary I get from the Beatitudes:

Jesus does not takes 'SIDES!' MOSES spoke of 'blessings AND curses'—depending on how old Israel got traction in the fulfillment of the Law. Christ 'opens His mouth'—and I EXPECT much of the same: 'Here's the SIDE Me and Heaven are ON!!!! Now, let's see what SIDE y'all get on!'

Instead, the first word, over and over, is 'blessed,' without a hint of 'curse.'

Something utterly new is going on: the New Testament, sealed with His Blood. And so we learn to sing:

4 Holy Spirit, joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace,
Let it grow and still increase.

Rejoice and be glad at THIS!

We are baptized ONCE—but with that Holy Washing, we are killed and raised DAILY AND MUCH.

Christ gave His Body and Blood on the Cross ONCE—and yet He calls out to receive that Gift ‘often.’

So, what sucks the spirit out of us, Holy or otherwise?

The world set AGAINST Moses—AND the world that pretends to be aligned with Moses.

You, dear disciples of Jesus—are NORMAL, in the eyes of heaven. FIT for a Kingdom in which ALL AUTHORITY has not been SEIZED by Jesus; but GIVEN! Given, even to Him!

And so we make out little playtime efforts to behave. On one side, the world sneers at how we ‘miss out’ all their fun of sin and perversion and death.

And then, from the other side, there are those panicked enough by Moses or conscience or the grave, that they abuse those they CAN—the little ones of Jesus—‘You think YOU are aligned with heaven?! Ha!’

Jesus does not take sides with you and me against some other set of men. Yes, ‘MEN’ will persecute. But HE, Jesus, IS...NOT...MOSES! He will NOT confine and demote HIS reign to one little nation in hot, dusty Palestine. And He does NOT lay the

burden on His little children, to furnish ANYONE—
MAN...OR...GOD!—with evidence of God’s blessing on them.

Instead, He went to reviling and persecution and all that—to
put Himself on the side of ALL MEN—whether or not
A...SINGLE...MAN rejoices or is glad!

And He is alive! For how else has the Church learned to sing:

5 Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev’ry idol throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone.

After your repetition this week—one bajillion times!—‘Jesus is
one thing, and He ain’t Moses!’—

Then it may be a happy thing to read, even memorize, the
Beatitudes! From the open mouth of your non-Moses Jesus!

The sins of others bring me to tears—and my own.

I’m expert at sinning—and yet I wish I was not!

Others wear me out—and I wear me out!

MY faults are obvious—to the outside, and to my inside.

What does Jesus say about you, then? ‘Blessed are Y’all...!’

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