

All Saints and Commemoration of the Faithful 2021

Matthew

Matthew 5:1–12 Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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.”

In the Name of Jesus.

Dear beloved, blessed, **CHERISHED** by the Lord! Let your poor pastor take the heat for y’all today! Lemme ask Heaven the question we all want to ask. If the poor sinners who have no good works to offer heaven are heaven’s favorites, then where IS Jesus? Why all this waiting and looking forward to the Great Day of Blessing? Why, for now, must we put up with the tears, the weight of it all, the flapping lips everywhere? I may have part of the answer for you today, God’s preferred ones! And it’s a blessing!

The Master is **EASING** His saints in to the land that is nothing but boon, nothing but gain. There is nothing more

different than the Mount of Moses versus the Mountain of Jesus. Moses set before the people ‘life AND death,’ ‘blessing AND curse.’ ‘And,’ said Moses, ‘it hinges on YOU being one or t’other!’

Not one curse on Jesus’ Mountain. Not from HIM, at least. He mentions this accursed kingdom; but only to speak kindly to us in an unkind world.

My dear ones, God’s Choice and Select portion: it must be for our good—not just for our good, but for our SALVATION—that the Lord Jesus is out of sight and not a factor at all in this world, but still blessing those He rules, His world. What good?

Theologians ask all sorts of crazy questions. They need real jobs. A hobby, maybe. But it has been pondered by the great ones, ‘Why, after the Lord’s cross and empty tomb, did God not just wrap up everything all at once and bring His saints to Him?’ You see why we religious types truly need to get out more!

Why do you not just plunge into an ice-bath, or into a hot one? ‘Cuz your ticker can only handle so much! Those are ‘ease-in’ things. I don’t have time to waste trying to figure out EVERYTHING the Almighty is doing. All I know is what the Teacher teaches us: The Almighty is ONLY happy when we call on Him as our dear Father, with all boldness and confidence. So I may only be PARTLY right about this: but it’s a ‘Gospel’ right, a blessed way to look at it.

The Lord Jesus is with us to the end of the age, baptizing and teaching and all that. And this ‘age’ goes for

as long as it goes, so that the Good Lord can ease us in to His kingdom. He did not want to surprise us so much with such an utterly different government, place to live, that we'd die of shock the first moment we enter life! Or, God does not want us to panic and burn the place down.

So, He fits us for heaven, exercises us in the ways of the Realm that knows no curse.

There will be no Antichrist is the land of Christ. Super. But why does Antichrist hold everyone enthralled now? I saw our own dear president bow and worship his holiness not long ago in Rome. The man's got clout!

Antichrist rules this kingdom, to crush God's people in this world, so they just squeeze through the narrow gate, are not too big for the narrow road: the few. You are deluged by people who NEVER run out of advice, counsel, suggestions, recommendations, opinions, judgements, ideas—so that you, dear saints, finally agree with THEM. 'OK! I GET IT! I am NOT what YOU were HOPING FOR! And that tells me that I am not what HEAVEN was hoping for. What hope is there for someone like me? YOU have none for me. Does anyone?!'

The Beatitudes are just the first few verses of the Sermon on the Mountain, by Jesus. Sat and heard His little chat this week. And I could not stop laughing from joy!

'Love your enemies!' My dear ones: that is NOT a commandment, a 'Moses' type of love. It is Jesus flicking you and me and ALL His saints right on the nose, DARING us to be bold and confident and to trust that the Crucifixion was the Enthronement of God with men who

deserve whatever comes to them: ‘Love my ENEMIES, Jesus? When I cannot begin to love my FRIENDS?! Love me enemies? YOU FIRST!’

Oh. He did. He does. And God will wipe away every tear from your eyes.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ ¹

Workers? Of law-LESS-ness? They BOAST of WHAT WORK? How they make others cry; especially the holy ones of God, just because of their sins.

Blessed of the Lord: today Christ gives you His Body to eat and His Blood to drink, to ease you into His kingdom. His Body and His Blood, given and shed for you, are your pledge that God has no opinion about you whatsoever. When you see Him—and you will, soon enough—you have been prepped by THIS tyranny around us to brace yourself, because someone is going to ask you a question; or a series of them. What shall we answer?

What a wasted life! Even in this world: to get all worked up about an event that WILL NEVER HAPPEN! When you see your Savior, your dear Father in heaven, He forgot on Good Friday what He wanted to ask of you, from

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 7:21–23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

you. When you rise, your dear God is going to wrap you up in Himself so gently, that all your prepared answers and excuses and explanations will be squeezed out of you for good.

So smile when the next poor man drops the gavel on you and gives his opinion of you. Smile; love; mourn; don't leave him, just because he has been well taught by his tyrants.

And, here is practical pastor Paul: try, this week—for a day, maybe—go a whole day, praying mightily, without giving one other poor sinner: advice, suggestions, recommendations, corrections, guidance, tears. I pray mightily that I am not alone in this communion. I pray y'all will find out that, with your pastor, a whole day is too much to ask. Then try one conversation. 'You want to hear why so and so is doing such and such?' 'Ummm. No thank you.'

These blessed daily crucifixions are your Lord Jesus' way of easing you into His kingdom. There, no one will ever ask for your opinion or advice. And there, no one will ever again lay theirs on you. To His Holy Meal! Heaven begins...NOW, dear saints in the Name of Jesus!