



5 Daily Devotionals (From May 24th Sermon)

Day 1 — Poor in Spirit, Rich in Grace

Key Verse:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 5:3

Reflection

Jesus begins the Beatitudes with a surprising statement. He does not say, “Blessed are the strong,” or “Blessed are the people who have everything together.” He says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” To be poor in spirit means recognizing our need for God. It is the honest confession that we cannot save ourselves, fix ourselves, or carry the weight of our sin alone. Our culture teaches us to say, “I’ve got this.” But Scripture teaches us to say, “Lord, I need You.”

The good news is that Jesus came precisely for people like that. He came for the weary, the guilty, the anxious, and the broken. He came to forgive sins, lift burdens, and bring peace to troubled hearts. So many of us walk through life carrying heavy backpacks filled with worry, shame, fear, and regret. Yet Christ invites us to bring those burdens to Him daily. In confession, He forgives. In weakness, He gives strength. In helplessness, He gives hope.

The kingdom of heaven belongs not to those who pretend they are strong, but to those who know they need a Savior.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess that I often try to handle life on my own. Forgive me for my pride and self-reliance. Remind me daily that my hope is found in You alone. Lift the burdens I carry and fill me with the peace of Your forgiveness. Amen.

Day 2 — Mourning What Breaks God's Heart

Key Verse:

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." — Matthew 5:4

Reflection

Jesus is not only talking about grief after death. He is also speaking about grieving over sin, brokenness, and the darkness of this fallen world.

As believers, we mourn the ways sin damages lives, families, communities, and hearts. We grieve when people reject God's truth. We mourn the pain caused by selfishness, lies, hatred, and unbelief. We even mourn our own failures and weaknesses.

Yet our world constantly tries to desensitize us. Sin becomes entertainment. Truth becomes negotiable. Brokenness becomes normal. Over time, it is easy to stop grieving what should grieve us.

But the Holy Spirit softens our hearts. He reminds us that sin is serious, not because God wants to shame us, but because sin destroys what He loves.

Still, Jesus gives comfort to those who mourn. He comforts us with forgiveness. He comforts us with His presence. And He comforts us with the promise that one day He will make all things new.

When your heart aches over sin and suffering, remember this: your sorrow is not ignored by God. Christ Himself entered our broken world to redeem it.

Prayer

Father, forgive me for the times I have grown comfortable with sin. Give me a heart that grieves what grieves You. Comfort me with Your mercy and strengthen me to point others toward Christ. Amen.

Day 3 — The Strength of Meekness

Key Verse:

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” — Matthew 5:5

Reflection

Meekness is often misunderstood. It is not weakness, passivity, or timidity. Meekness is strength placed under God’s control.

A meek person does not make life all about themselves. Instead, they look to serve others with humility and love. Jesus Himself is the perfect example. Though He is Lord of all, He came not to be served but to serve.

This runs against everything our culture teaches. The world says, “Put yourself first.” Jesus says, “Love your neighbor.” The world says, “Protect your rights.” Jesus says, “Carry one another’s burdens.”

Meekness begins when we trust that God has already secured our future through Christ. Because Jesus has forgiven us and made us His own, we no longer have to fight for our worth or identity. We are free to love sacrificially.

Sometimes meekness looks like listening patiently. Sometimes it looks like forgiving quickly. Sometimes it means setting aside your own comfort to care for someone else.

As God has made everything about saving you through Christ, He now teaches you to make your life about serving others.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me true humility. Help me to trust so fully in Your care that I become more concerned with serving others than serving myself. Let my words and actions reflect Your love today. Amen.

Day 4 — Hungering for Righteousness

Key Verse:

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” —
Matthew 5:6

Reflection

Everyone hungers for something. Some hunger for success. Others chase comfort, approval, money, or security. Yet none of those things can truly satisfy the soul.

Jesus says blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. In other words, blessed are those who long for a right relationship with God.

This hunger grows when we realize how deeply we need Him. We begin craving His Word, His forgiveness, His wisdom, and His presence. We want our hearts reshaped by His truth.

The Christian life is not about pretending to be perfect. It is about continually returning to Christ for mercy and renewal. Through His Word and Sacraments, God strengthens faith, restores weary hearts, and renews our minds.

And here is the promise: those who hunger for righteousness will be satisfied. Not because of their efforts, but because Jesus Himself is their righteousness.

Christ has already done what we never could. He lived perfectly in our place, died for our sins, and rose again for our salvation. In Him, we are forgiven and made right with God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, create in me a deeper hunger for Your Word and Your ways. Draw me back to You whenever my heart wanders. Thank You that my righteousness is found in Christ alone.
Amen.

Day 5 — Mercy, Peace, and Faithfulness

Key Verse:

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” — Matthew 5:7

Reflection

Mercy is one of the clearest reflections of God’s heart. Though we deserve judgment because of sin, God has shown us compassion through Jesus Christ.

Because we have received mercy, we are called to show mercy to others.

That is not always easy. People fail us. They wound us. They disappoint us. Yet mercy chooses forgiveness over revenge and compassion over bitterness.

Jesus also calls believers to be peacemakers. A peacemaker does not ignore sin or avoid hard conversations. Instead, a peacemaker works toward reconciliation through truth, repentance, and forgiveness.

This kind of faithfulness will not always be popular. Sometimes the world resists God’s truth. Sometimes even fellow believers struggle to hear correction. Yet Jesus reminds us that following Him may involve rejection or criticism.

Still, we do not fear. Christ has already won the victory over sin, death, and the devil. Our identity is secure in Him.

So we live differently. We forgive because we are forgiven. We pursue peace because Christ made peace for us at the cross. And we remain faithful because Jesus remains faithful to us.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the mercy You have shown me through the cross. Help me forgive others as You have forgiven me. Make me a peacemaker who speaks truth with love and points others toward Your grace. Amen.

Small Group Discussion

Matthew 4:23–5:12

Opening Question

What is something heavy or stressful you've carried recently that became easier once you talked to someone about it?

Main Idea

Jesus came not only to heal outward problems, but to heal the heart. In the Beatitudes, Jesus describes the life of those who trust in Him. Believers still struggle with sin, grief, fear, and weakness, but Christ meets us with forgiveness, mercy, strength, and hope.

Key Scripture

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
— Matthew 5:3

Discussion & Reflection

1. Jesus Heals the Heart

Read: Matthew 4:23-24

Jesus healed physical sicknesses, but His central message was the Gospel — forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation with God.

Supporting Verses

- Psalm 51:17 — “A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”
- Romans 5:1 — “Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Questions

- Why do people often focus more on outward problems than inward struggles?
 - What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?
 - Why is humility important in the Christian life?
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2. Confession, Repentance, and Grace

The sermon compared sin and worry to carrying a backpack full of rocks. Jesus invites us to bring our burdens to Him instead of carrying them alone.

Supporting Verses

- 1 John 1:8-9
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Philippians 4:6-7

Questions

- What keeps people from confessing sins regularly?
 - How does repentance actually lead to freedom instead of shame?
 - What burdens do people commonly try to carry without God?
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3. Mourning Over Sin and Brokenness

Read: Matthew 5:4

Jesus says believers will grieve over sin, suffering, death, and unbelief — both in the world and in themselves.

Supporting Verses

- Romans 12:15
- Ezekiel 18:32
- 2 Peter 3:9

Questions

- What does our culture encourage us to ignore or become desensitized to?
 - Why is it hard to grieve over sin today?
 - How can mourning over sin lead us closer to Christ instead of despair?
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4. Meekness, Mercy, and Peacemaking

Jesus calls believers to care for others, show mercy, and pursue reconciliation.

Supporting Verses

- Philippians 2:3-5
- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Romans 12:18

Questions

- What is the difference between weakness and meekness?
 - Why is showing mercy often difficult?
 - What makes peacemaking harder than simply “keeping the peace”?
 - Is there a relationship in your life that may need forgiveness or reconciliation?
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5. Standing Firm in Truth

Read: Matthew 5:10-12

Following Jesus sometimes brings rejection or criticism. Christ calls believers to remain faithful even when truth is unpopular.

Supporting Verses

- John 15:18-19
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- Ephesians 4:15

Questions

- Why does truth often create tension in today's culture?
 - How can Christians speak truth with both courage and love?
 - What encouragement does Jesus give believers who face opposition?
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Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus to heal what we could never heal ourselves. We confess that we often try to carry our burdens alone, trust in ourselves, and ignore the sin that harms us and others. Forgive us for the sake of Christ.

Create in us humble hearts that continually turn back to You in repentance and faith. Teach us to show mercy, pursue peace, love others well, and stand firmly in Your truth with gentleness and compassion.

Strengthen us through Your Word and remind us daily that our hope is secure in Jesus, who has overcome sin, death, and the devil. In His name we pray, Amen.