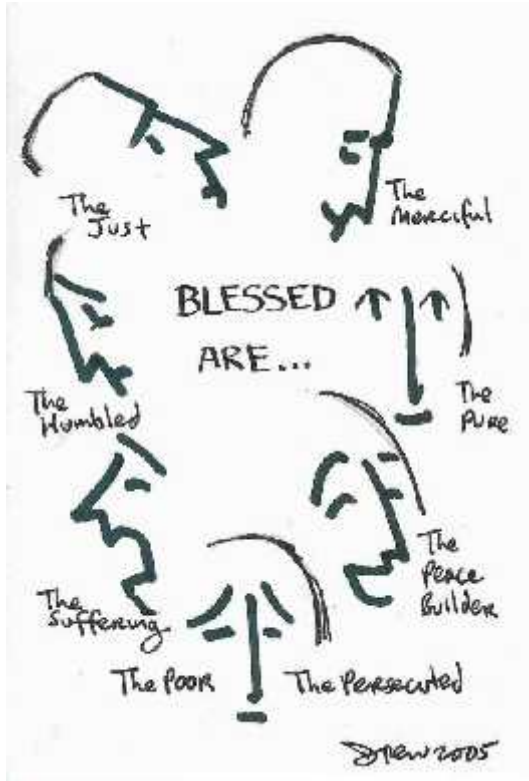


# The Beattitudes

## Matthew 5:1-16



### GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song**

“Turn, Turn, Turn”

[[http://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/byrds/turn+turn+turn\\_20026419.html](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/byrds/turn+turn+turn_20026419.html)]

Refrain: To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn);  
There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under Heaven

A time to be born, a time to die; A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal; A time to laugh, a time to weep

Refrain

A time to gain, a time to lose; A time to rend, a time to sew  
A time for love, a time for hate; A time for peace,  
I swear it's not too late

- **Hear the Story...**

### READING

- **Read Text aloud [standing, sitting, walking – but don't go far away]**
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

### RESPONDING

- **What might the order of the Beatitudes symbolize?**
- **Why is there persecution and how could this be a blessing?**
- **What does the comparison with salt symbolize?**
- **How does the symbol of 'light' in Matthew compare with how 'light' is used to symbolize Jesus in the Gospel of John [verses 8:12 and 9:5]?**

### SHARING

- **Have the Beatitudes been true for you?**
- **How have you been like 'salt' and 'light'?**

### CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Matthew 5:1-16

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;  
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, 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 will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

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

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

11 'Blessed are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets  
who were before you.

13 'You are the salt of the earth;  
but if salt has lost its taste,  
how can its saltiness be restored?

It is no longer good for anything,  
but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 'You are the light of the world.  
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,  
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven.