

Lent Day 15: Truly Blessed

By: James Yang

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:3-12

How many times in our prayers have we asked God to bless us? Most often, we ask for God's blessing in the form of material or emotional happiness. That happiness usually looks like laughter, comfort, pleasure, or earthly prosperity—often connected to something we desire or hope to gain.

Yet the biblical idea of blessedness is far richer and far deeper than this. To be blessed is not merely a material condition or an emotional state. It is not ultimately about what we possess, achieve, or enjoy. To be blessed, in Scripture, is a spiritual reality before it is ever an outward one. It is about standing in right relationship with God and living securely within His gracious care.

True blessedness is a kind of security that goes beyond what our eyes can see or our circumstances can explain. It is the quiet confidence that our lives are held by God, even when everything else feels uncertain. This blessedness becomes especially evident when we find hope and joy amid suffering—when faith endures in the hardest seasons, and when trust remains even when we feel stripped of everything this world has to offer.

This hope and joy do not come from within us, nor do they come from the world around us. They come from one place alone: Jesus Christ. In Him, blessedness is not defined by what I have, but by who has me. It is not about having what I desire belong to me, but about knowing who I belong to—and knowing that I am deeply desired, claimed, and loved by God.

Jesus makes this clear in the Beatitudes, where He turns the world's understanding of blessing upside down. Eugene Peterson captures this beautifully in his paraphrase of the beatitudes in *The Message*:

³*"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. ⁴"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. ⁵"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.*