

SERMON
The Blessed Life
Matthew 5:1-12

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 5:1-12

5 Seeing the crowds, he 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.

The good life of the kingdom is different than this world.

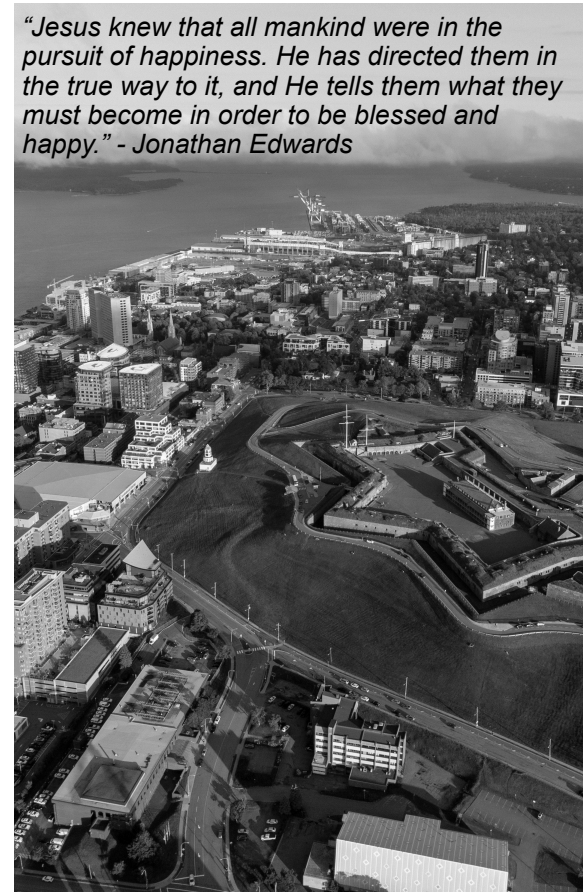
The blessed life is experienced by the:

1. Humble (v. 1-5)

2. Just (v. 6-8)

3. Opposed (v. 9-12)

"Jesus knew that all mankind were in the pursuit of happiness. He has directed them in the true way to it, and He tells them what they must become in order to be blessed and happy." - Jonathan Edwards



**BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

May 17, 2026
www.bedfordpca.org
49 Nelsons Landing Blvd., Bedford, NS

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us today. We envision a church worshipping with joy, loving each other with compassion and reaching out to the world with grace and justice.

CHILDREN

There is usually Children's Church for children between the ages of 3 to 10. There is no Children's Church on Sundays when the Lord's Supper is celebrated. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

UPCOMING

Volunteers needed to help prepare sanctuary for floor refinishing: May 18, Time set by Deacons.

English Conversation Group: May 20, 12:45 p.m.

Overview of the book of Matthew: May 24, 9 a.m.

Church Potluck: May 31, after the service

Calvin and Hops: May 29, 7-9 p.m. at Christ Church Halifax Office. Discussion based on Calvin's Institutes Book 1, Chapters 14-15, 5th Edition.

Men's Breakfast: June 20th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at BPC

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Meets next on May 6.
- **ISMIC study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the home of Laura Priddle studying Joshua. The 7:15 p.m. Monday evening study on Romans meets every other week.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE OPEN DOOR CENTRE which provides a safe place for youth who are sexually exploited or who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. On Mother's Day we invite you to pick up a HEY (Helping Exploited Youth) box or a baby bottle and fill it generously. Bring the box or bottle back with your donation inside, on Father's Day. To find out more about Open Door visit opendoorcentre.com

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Family of the week: Edward and Eliza Woolley and son Josiah

HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord,
who has worked wonders,
whose right hand and holy arm have brought
salvation.

**People: The Lord has made known salvation;
has shown justice to the nations;
has remembered truth and love for the
house of Israel.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
sing out your joy.**

Leader: Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.**
—based on Psalm 98:1-6

HYMN OF PRAISE

Worship Christ the Risen King

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 3:9-15

⁹For the look on their faces bears witness against them;
they proclaim their sin like Sodom;
they do not hide it.

Woe to them!

For they have brought evil on themselves.

¹⁰Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them,
for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.

¹¹Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him,
for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.

¹²My people—infants are their oppressors,
and women rule over them.

O my people, your guides mislead you
and they have swallowed up^a the course of your
paths.

¹³The Lord has taken his place to contend;
he stands to judge peoples.

¹⁴The Lord will enter into judgment
with the elders and princes of his people:
“It is you who have devoured^b the vineyard,
the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

¹⁵What do you mean by crushing my people,
by grinding the face of the poor?”
declares the Lord God of hosts.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Based on old Testament reading

SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 1

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize
you;
you call, but we do not follow;
you command, but we do not obey,
you bless us, but we do not thank you.
Please forgive and help us.
Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept
others;
you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who
wrong us;
you love us, but we do not love our neighbours.
Please forgive and help us.
Lord, you showed us how to carry out your
mission,
but we still insist on our own;
you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy,
and the poor,
but we do not bother to find out what is
happening to them;
you suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we do not give up our comfortable lives.
Please forgive and help us,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Leader: Here are words you may trust, words that merit
full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners.
To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead
a new life, he says, “Your sins are forgiven.”
—based on 1 Timothy 1:15

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Christ our Hope in Life and Death
O Praise the Name

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 4:1-12

⁴What causes quarrels and what causes fights among
you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within
you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You
covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do
not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not
receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your
passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that
friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore
whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself
an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose
that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the
spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God
opposes the proud but gives grace to the
humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the
devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and
he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you
sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter
be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble
yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The
one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother,
speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you
judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a
judge. ¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is
able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge
your neighbour?

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for Churches in Halifax and Edward and Eliza
Woolley and son Josiah

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be
thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

SERMON

The Blessed Life
Rev. Jim Poopalapillai

CLOSING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who
love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

