

02-01-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“[At] the theological heart of the beatitudes is a call to be disciples who live out the virtues of the blessings in pursuit of righteousness grounded in God's righteousness (God's steadfast love, goodness, justice, and mercy).”

Marsha Y. Roggs



1 Corinthians 1:18-21 + Matthew 5:1-12

Questions for Reflection —

- In what ways do the Beatitudes in entirety offer a counterintuitive alternative to what the world pursues as success and happiness? How are you being called to live into the Beatitudes in your daily life? To what counter-cultural ways of being in the world are the Beatitudes an invitation? What helps you listen for, pay attention to, and be willing to accept the invitation? With what do you struggle in responding to that invitation?

- Where or how do you see the values and behaviors that are exemplified in the Beatitudes manifest our life as a community of faith? In what ways do you see God's justice, peace, mercy, and healing manifest through our programs and ministries? How can we as a church offer alternatives to what the world values and pursues? How can we be present as God's blessing, especially for people who are marginalized, in the community around us? How does reflecting on the Beatitudes give you a different perspective on what it means to be church in the face of societal injustice and oppression?

- How would you define the difference between knowledge and wisdom? What helps you distinguish God's wisdom from worldly versions of wisdom? Under what circumstances or in what situations have you found that human understandings and perspectives provide inadequate guidance? In what aspect(s) of your life do you presently perceive a need for God's guiding wisdom? What does it look like for you to allow God's wisdom to guide your attitudes and actions? By what means does that happen?

Daily Household Prayer

Gracious God, we come to you poor in spirit. Fill us with the riches of your Word. We come to you hungry for justice. Give us hope and joy. We come to you powerless in this violent world. May we inherit the world of your grace. We come to you desiring to be your peacemakers. Bless us that we might receive your Spirit, and serve you in the name of Christ. Amen.