

Prayer Guide



BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

January 2022

A New Way of Thinking

Jesus brought a new and radical way of thinking into a culture steeped with Laws and traditions. He broke down much of the old way of thinking regarding the burden of the Law. He began by introducing a new way of thinking that would not do away with the law but rather to help us fulfill it in the manner God intended. This new way of thinking was given in the Beatitudes. They are the introduction to the greatest message ever delivered, the Sermon on the Mount.

Each beatitude describes what he wanted his followers to be and to do. Here is a Christian value system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude toward money, ambition, lifestyle, and network of relationships. They are Christ's own specification of what every Christian ought to be. Each quality is commending each person who exhibits it and is pronounced "blessed."

Slowly read each Beatitude. Study it, mediate on it, digest it and allow it to impact your thinking. They are vivid reminders that authentic Christian faith is not about how we pose ourselves to look on the outside but what is going on deep within our being.

Vernon

SUNDAY: A new way of thinking about yourself

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"

- Thank you, Lord, for giving me insight on a truly *blessed* life
- Keep me mindful of how *poor* and spiritually bankrupt I am without your saving grace
- Help me understand more about your promise of the *kingdom of heaven*
- Guide me to live with the kingdom of heaven in mind

MONDAY: A new way of thinking about our sin

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

- Open my eyes to recognize my sins and *mourn* because of them
- *Help me not to be deceived about my sin; "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves" 1 John 1.8*
- I don't want to just regret my sins but repent with remorse
- Thank you for the *comfort* that comes from genuine remorse and repentance

TUESDAY: A new way of thinking about power

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle [meek], for they shall inherit the earth.

- Keep me mindful that human power is not the same as being *gentle*, but rather power under God's control
- Guide me each day to be a gentle servant that God will use
- Thank you for the promised *inheritance* that we do not earn or deserve
- Help me to understand more of what it means to "inherit the earth"

WEDNESDAY: A new way of thinking about satisfaction

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

- Keep my hunger and thirst for Your righteousness and protect me from being satisfied with anything less.
- Protect me from losing my thirst for God. Keep me thirsty!!
- Help me guard against filling my life with junk that curbs my appetite for righteousness
- Thank you for the satisfaction you bring when we hunger and thirst for righteousness

THURSDAY: A new way of thinking about others

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

- Give me a tender heart for those around me who need acts of mercy
- Open my eyes to see opportunities for showing mercy as you have been merciful to me
- Help me be like the Good Samaritan who took the risk and paid the price to show mercy
- Thank you for the promise of receiving mercy as I extend mercy to others

FRIDAY: A new way of thinking about Purity

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

- Lead me each day to have a pure heart in my thinking, attitude, and actions
- Keep me mindful that "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick." Give me eyes to not be deceived
- "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!" *Psalm 139:23*
- Thank you for the promise that with a pure heart I will see God. What a wonderful promise.

SATURDAY: A new way of thinking about conflict

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- Guard me from pride and selfishness that leads to conflict
- Show me how to always get on the solution side of conflict
- Give me wisdom to always act appropriately in the face of conflict
- Thank you for the promise of being "called sons of God" when living as a peacemaker