

## **Discussion and Reflection Questions**

### **Grief for the benefit of others - All Saints Day 5th of November 2023**

#### **Read: Matthew 5.1-12**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#### **Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. How do you think the first hearers of the Sermon on the Mount would have received Jesus' teaching (known as the Beatitudes)?
2. What does it mean to be blessed? Do you have a working definition of "blessed"?
3. How would you define mourning & grief? What is your experience of mourning?
4. How does grief impact life other than when people we know die?
5. Have you seen or experienced any cultural differences in grief, particularly public grief?
6. How can grief be for the benefit of others?
7. Can mourning become a spiritual discipline?

#### **Prayer**

We praise you, heavenly Father, that you have knit together your chosen ones in one communion and fellowship in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**