

The Beatitudes

The Challenge and the Blessing

For you to consider:

- ❖ How have you been blessed or challenged by any of the Beatitudes?
- ❖ Can you think of a personal story that relates one of the Beatitudes to life?

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
- *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.*
- *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.*
- *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
- *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.*
- *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*
- *Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

And again...

- ❖ What do our stories have in common?
- ❖ Why do we try to follow or live the Beatitudes?

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The Beatitudes...*the Story*

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

- Sermon on the Mount- Mt 5-7
- Addressed to disciples (those chosen) and crowd
- Spiritual conditions

GOSPEL OF LUKE

- Sermon on the Plain- Lk 6:20-49
- Much shorter than Matthew-four Beatitudes, for instance
- Addressed only to disciples- after choosing all 12 disciples
- Social differences

Do
unto
others

Salt of
the
earth

The Beatitudes... *the Sermon on the Mount*

Go the
extra
mile

- The “*heart of Jesus’ preaching*”
- Gathering of teachings: how Jesus taught and what he believed about the capacity of the human person
- Cultural impact

Don't judge,
or you too will
be judged

Turn the
other
cheek



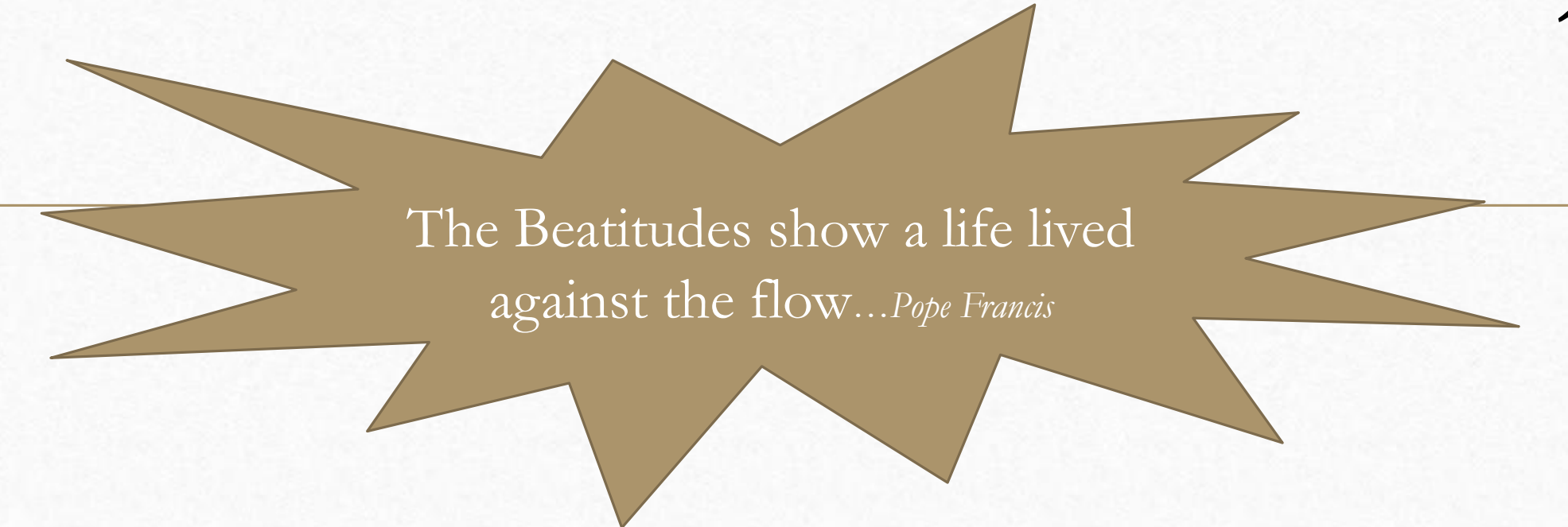
The Sermon on the Mount

- Mount Eremos on northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee
- Mountain as site for divine revelation
- Close in proximity to God
- Moses and the Ten Commandments

“

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

”



The Beatitudes show a life lived
against the flow...*Pope Francis*

“Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? ... It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return. ”

-Annie Dillard

The Beatitudes

- What does “blessed” mean?
 - ❖ Happy
 - ❖ Honored
 - ❖ Statement of blessedness; God’s blessing is with this person/group
- Expectations of the people
 - ❖ A Messiah to liberate them from Roman oppression

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for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

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

- *How are we called to live this out in our daily lives?*
- *If you were to really live the Beatitudes, how would your life be different?*
- *What would a Church of the Beatitudes look like?*