Sermon for November 1, 2026
All Saints Day
"Being Blest"

Matthew 5:1-12

Back when Jesus was first getting started, he gathered his disciples and began goin' around preachin' that the Kingdom of Heaven was just around the corner. People responded so that great crowds came out he see Jesus and hear what he had to say. Jesus got up on a hill so they could hear him, and he spoke to all those who came to learn from him.

He said: "God blesses the poor in spirit. The Kingdom belongs to them.
God blesses those who are concerned about the state of the world; God will do something positive about their concerns.
God blesses the gentle; they will receive all that they have not demanded.
God blesses those who deeply want to please God. God will satisfy them.
God blesses those who care for others first. God will take care of them.
God blesses those whose hearts are focused on God. They will know God!
God blesses those who build bridges. They are doing God's work.
God blesses those who face troubles in this world for doing right. The Kingdom is for them.

Then Jesus looked the people right in the eye and said: God blesses you when people talk bad about you and undermine you and punish you unjustly because of me. Don't feel bad, but be glad when that happens. Remember that God will reward you. You're in good company. That's the way people treated God's prophets in the Bible.

Christians traditionally call these blessings "The Beatitudes." They are really just blessings. Jesus is speaking to the people who believe in him; his disciples. He has been telling them that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. In these blessings he is telling them what impact the Kingdom will have on them. They will be blessed!

Blessed by whom? By God! Because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand God blesses those who are poor in spirit, and merciful and etc.

But who are these blessed people really? Those who are poor have no money or power to trust in, so they trust in God. Like the widow who gave her last two pennies to God. She put her trust in God. So the "Poor in Spirit" are those who have put their full trust in God and not in earthly things. Blessed are those who mourn. This mourning could be for the state of the world. It may not be just for our own hurts, but for injuries and pain experienced by others. Blessed are the meek. "Meek" does not mean that they don't stand up for themselves. It means that they are gentle and don't force themselves upon others. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." These are the people who truly seek to know God. "Blessed are the merciful." God is merciful and these are those who seek to show mercy to others like God. "Blessed are the pure in heart." These are people who are single-mindedly focused on God and the Kingdom. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

These are those who try to bring people together instead of tearing them apart. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake." Sometimes the coming of the reign of God in people's lives leads to persecution. God blesses those who suffer such.

That is all nice and everything; Jesus says that all those good people are blest. Then he hit the crowd with the last blessing. At first it sounds like a continuation of the blessing right before it: blessed are the persecuted, but it's different "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you." It's not just those unnamed people out there somewhere, but the people looking into Jesus' eyes are blest.

Blessed are you. Have you ever put your whole trust in God like someone who has no other hope? – You are blessed. Have you ever been concerned for the state of our society or the world? – You are blessed. Have you ever put someone else's needs before your own? – You are blessed. Have you ever yearned to have a closer walk with Jesus? – You are blessed. Have you ever tried to show the same forgiveness and grace that God showed you? – You are blessed. Have you ever tried to live for God and God alone? – You are blessed. Have you ever tried to bring people together? – You are blessed. Have you ever been called names or sneered at or ignored because of your faith? – You are blessed.

That is the bottom line: you are blessed. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Jesus the Savior is here with us, and all who serve him are blessed.

Today is the Sunday on the church calendar when Christians traditionally celebrate "All Saints Day." I know when we hear the word "saints" with think of Roman Catholics and their saints. In the Bible the word "saint" means anyone who has been saved. If you have given your life to Christ, then you are saved and you are a saint. Today we remember those members of this congregation who have received the full force of God's blessings in Heaven. They are in the presence of Jesus where there is no sickness or pain and where every tear is wiped away from their eyes. These candles represent their spirits glowing in the presence of God's glory. They are saints and so are we.

The message that we get from the Word today is that we are blessed. Because the reign of God has come into our lives, because Jesus has come, we are blessed. The Kingdom of Heaven is your inheritance! God will take care of you and give you the world. God will fill the emptiness in your heart and soul and forgive your sins. You will know God and be known as God's sons and daughters. Even when people mistreat you, you will be in good company.

The Kingdom of God is closer than it has ever been. Jesus the King looked at his disciples… Jesus looks at his disciples… Jesus looks at you and says, "Blessed are you!"