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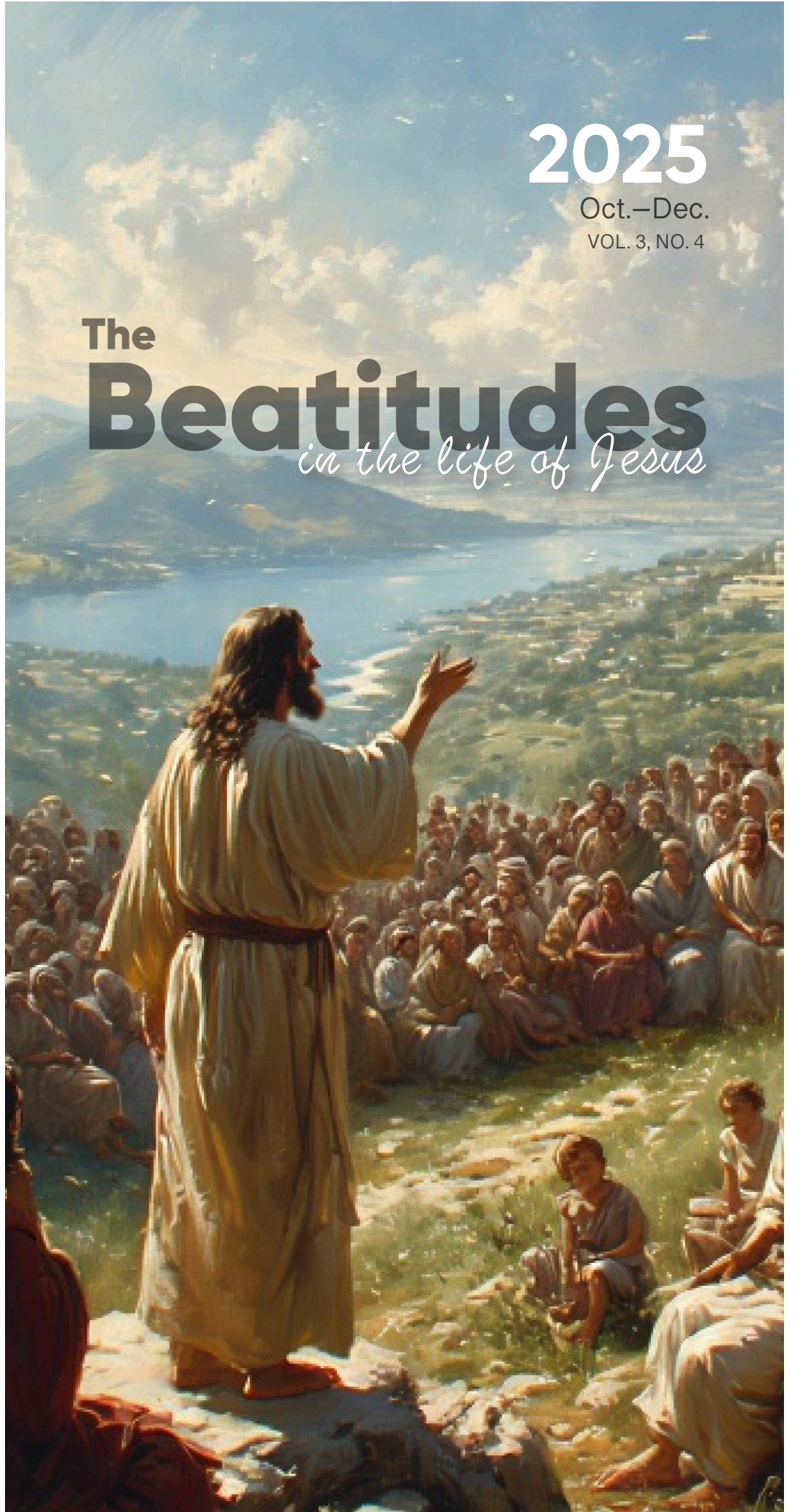
2025

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VOL. 3, NO. 4

The  
**Beatitudes**  
*in the life of Jesus*

THE YOUNG MESSENGER





“Christ’s sermon on the mount contains lessons which Jesus Himself had lived and acted before He commenced His instruction to the people. . . . Let us take the Beatitudes one by one, and learn from God’s Word what they mean to us individually.” –*Manuscripts 115*, 1898

“Christ lived every phase of that sermon before He gave it to His hearers. The Beatitudes represent His deeds.” –*Letters 81*, 1894

“The example of Jesus is a light to the young, as well as to those of more mature years, for His was a representative childhood and youth.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 178

“The Lord Jesus gave to men a representation of the character of God in His life and example. The law of God is the transcript of the character of God. And in Christ they had its precepts exemplified, and example was far more effective than the pre-

cept had been. . . . In fulfilling the law, He carried out every specification of its claims.” –*The Signs of the Times*, March 14, 1895

“Let us in imagination go back to that scene, and, as we sit with the disciples on the mountainside, enter into the thoughts and feelings that filled their hearts. Understanding what the words of Jesus meant to those who heard them, we may discern in them a new vividness and beauty, and may also gather for ourselves their deeper lessons. . . .

“Alone upon a mountain near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus had spent all night in prayer for these chosen ones. At the dawn He called them to Him, and, with words of prayer and instruction, laid His hands upon their heads in benediction, setting them apart to the gospel work. Then He repaired with them to the seaside, where in the early morning a great multitude had already begun to assemble.



# Jesus

## The Example of The Beatitudes

“Besides the usual crowd from the Galilean towns, there were great numbers from Judea, and from Jerusalem itself; from Perea, and from the half-heathen population of Decapolis; from Idumea, away to the south of Judea, and from Tyre and Sidon, the Phoenician cities on the shore of the Mediterranean. ‘Hearing what great things He did,’ they ‘came to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases; and ... power came forth from Him, and healed them all.’ Mark 3:8, R.V.; Luke 6:17-19, R.V.

“Then, as the narrow beach did not afford even standing room within reach of His voice for all who desired to hear Him, Jesus led the way back to the mountainside. Reaching a level space that afforded a pleasant gathering place for the vast assembly, He seated Himself upon the grass, and His disciples and the multitude followed His example. . . .

“As they sat upon the green hillside, awaiting the words of the divine Teacher, their hearts were

filled with thoughts of future glory. There were scribes and Pharisees who looked forward to the day when they should have dominion over the hated Romans and possess the riches and splendor of the world's great empire. The poor peasants and fishermen hoped to hear the assurance that their wretched hovels, the scanty food, the life of toil, and fear of want, were to be exchanged for mansions of plenty and days of ease. In place of the one coarse garment which was their covering by day and their blanket at night, they hoped that Christ would give them the rich and costly robes of their conquerors.” – *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, p. 1-5

Amen.

*Ellen G. White*

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## The Poor in Spirit

By: Christina Avila

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preaches about a set of blessings offered to those who follow what we call the Beatitudes. These Beatitudes start off with us being offered a place in the kingdom of heaven if we live a life being poor in spirit. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? Should we be sad or timid in order to fall under this category? Fortunately, we are not meant to take “poor in spirit” literally; it is referring to our spiritual state. As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, we are meant to understand that our whole life is dependent on God, and we are in great need of His grace. As humans, we are born sinful; therefore, we stray from God daily, and only He can forgive those sins.

In Greek, the word poor translates to *ptokhos*, which indicates deep spiritual poverty and a need

to be closer to God (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 325). Furthermore, to be “poor in spirit” is also remembering where our desires should lie; we should not strive to build up earthly possessions, as this will not save us. In Luke 18, we see that the Publican who went to pray was justified, but the Pharisee was not. “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other...” (verse 14). This was because the Publican acknowledged his spiritual poverty and genuinely had the desire to live under the Lord’s care; however, the Pharisee simply wanted to have the appearance of being holy. The verse goes on to say, “For everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” As the Publican did, we who claim to be followers of God should humble ourselves and remember that we are spiritually poor without Him.

When Jesus said the kingdom of heaven belongs to

those who are poor in spirit, He is telling us that when we acknowledge our need for Him and humble ourselves in our daily life, we will receive the blessings promised to us. Along with these rewards, being humble and depending on the Lord is a step closer to the ultimate reward—entering the kingdom of heaven. Additionally, “the kingdom of heaven” also refers to a life filled with the Lord’s divine grace. In other words, when we give the Lord praise instead of taking credit for ourselves, this is being poor in spirit. If we are lost in a situation or have anxiety about the future, and we decide to put our trust in Jesus through prayer, that is being poor in spirit since our reliance is on God. It is of the utmost importance to take the Beatitudes just as seriously as the Ten Commandments. Both show us the path to righteousness and provide us with a guideline for all those who profess to love Jesus. He practiced these words just as He preached them.

The New Testament provides countless events of Jesus being poor in spirit and setting an example for us. Before Jesus and the disciples were to have their feast of the passover, He “began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel where-with He was girded.” John 13:5. This duty of foot-washing was common in Jewish custom for a foreign slave to take on, thus making Jesus’ actions even more impactful (*Seventh-day Adventist Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1028). For someone so holy and righteous to lower Himself to such a position speaks greatly on just how imperative it is for those who follow Christ to do likewise. After this moving lesson, Jesus instructs the disciples to also wash one another’s feet. “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.” John 13:14. This applies not only to the disciples during Jesus’ time, but it is for His followers today. We can mimic these humble actions through foot washing at communion service, as well as random positive acts of service in our daily lives. Through Christ’s example, we can be taught to humble ourselves to one another and learn to be servants for our Heavenly Father. Devoting our lives to Him should be the ultimate honour as a Christian.

In order to be fully humble and poor in spirit, it is important to note how Jesus lived and take inspiration from Him. The majority of the time, Christ did not have any place to lay His head but the ground on which He walked. When travelling from place to place with His disciples, they did not carry many possessions with them, they solely focused on the mission of spreading the gospel. Jesus lived a life of poverty and humility because He knew earth was not His final destination, nor is it ours. In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ encourages us to “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt...” Matthew 6:20. Jesus is pleading for us to invest in our eternal life rather than the “treasures upon earth.” Matthew 6:19. Furthermore, we are instructed to put our possession-driven anxiety aside and start to focus on our journey to heaven.

Throughout His whole life on earth, Jesus did everything for the human race, with the ultimate sacrifice being His death on the cross for us. This action was not only because He loved us, but it was also an act of humility and obedience towards God. As Christ was sent to die, He endured beatings, degradation, as well as agonizing distance from His father—all of which Jesus did with grace and love (Isaiah 53:7). In each step of Christ’s suffering during His execution process, He never complained or said that His punishment was unjust, instead, He prayed for those inflicting pain upon Him and asked for the guidance of the Lord. There is no other being that is a better example of “poor in spirit” than Christ Himself. Jesus “made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” Philippians 2:7. As the epitome of humility, Jesus should be the biggest inspiration on our path to salvation. We should look to the Lord for all guidance and disregard all worldly desires because we are lost and spiritually empty without God.

Amen



**But made Himself of no reputation,  
took upon Him the form of a servant,  
and was made in the likeness of men.**



**W**hen we picture Jesus, do we imagine Jesus with tears on His face? Most probably we would not. Many picture Jesus as a victorious king who comes back in glory and takes us with Him in His second coming. But we rarely imagine a Jesus who experienced a range of emotions and felt sorrow. When looking at Jesus' divinity, we often overlook His humanity. We forget that when Jesus became human, He did not just speak of understanding our problems, grief and sorrows. But He said this because He had gone through them as well. As is seen in the Bible, Jesus wept when Lazarus died. He felt sorrow over the people in Jerusalem when He foresaw their destruction because of their disobedience. He felt anguish when thinking of His soon-to-come death on the cross. He cried because He felt He was abandoned when He was on the cross. So in this way we will see how Jesus truly understands our problems, because He Himself went through them.

One of the clearest and most touching examples of Jesus' mourning comes in the story of

# Jesus

## Mourned

By: *Elder Hernandez Sosa*



Isaiah 53:3–4

## He is... a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief... Surely He... carried our sorrows:

Lazarus. Lazarus, a dear friend of Jesus, had died. By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already been buried for four days. His sisters, Mary and Martha, met Jesus with grieving hearts. When Jesus saw them and many others weeping, He was “deeply moved in spirit and troubled.” John 11:33

Then we have the shortest and probably the most powerful verse in the Bible: “Jesus wept.” John 11:35. He wept not because He lacked the power to raise Lazarus—He would do that just moments later—but because He felt the sting of human grief. Jesus entered into the sorrow of His friends, letting their pain become His own. His tears were not just for show; they were real, raw, and full of compassion. He mourned because He loved His friend Lazarus. This simple verse shows us the heart of Christ. He does not observe our grief from a distance; He steps into it. He mourns with those who are mourning.

Jesus not only mourned for individuals; He also grieved for communities. As He approached Jerusalem during His final week, He paused and looked out over the city. What He saw was not just buildings and people, but missed opportunities—people who had failed to recognize the time of Jesus’ coming. Luke 19:41 tells us, “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it.” Jesus foresaw the devastation that would come upon Jerusalem because of its rejection of Him. He was not angry; He was heartbroken. His mourning was filled with longing—for peace, for repentance, for reconciliation. This moment is powerful. It shows that Jesus’ grief extended beyond His immediate circle. He felt deeply for the people who rejected Him. His sorrow was born of love—for what could have been if only they had listened. We see here a God who does not give up on His people, even when they give up on Him.

Perhaps the most intense scene of Jesus’ mourning and emotional anguish occurs in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before His crucifixion. Knowing what lay ahead—betrayal, suffering, and death—Jesus took three of His disciples to pray. He told them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to

the point of death.” Matthew 26:38. He fell to the ground and pleaded with God, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.” Matthew 26:39. Luke 22:44 adds that “being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” This condition, known as hematomidrosis, can occur in extreme stress. Jesus was not casually accepting His fate—He was in deep emotional agony. This moment matters because it shows Jesus did not suppress His sorrow. He acknowledged it, brought it to God, and surrendered to His purpose. Jesus understood what it meant to feel overwhelmed, afraid, and alone. Jesus’ mourning reached its peak on the cross. In His final moments, He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Matthew 27:46. These words, quoted from Psalm 22, express the deep sense of abandonment Jesus felt as He bore the weight of the world’s sin. Though still divine, Jesus experienced the full force of human suffering—physical pain, spiritual separation, and emotional despair. His cry was not just theological; it was personal. It was the voice of someone who felt truly alone. In this moment, Jesus mourned the brokenness of the world, the cost of redemption, and the distance sin creates between God and humanity. Yet through this mourning, salvation was accomplished. His pain brought our peace.

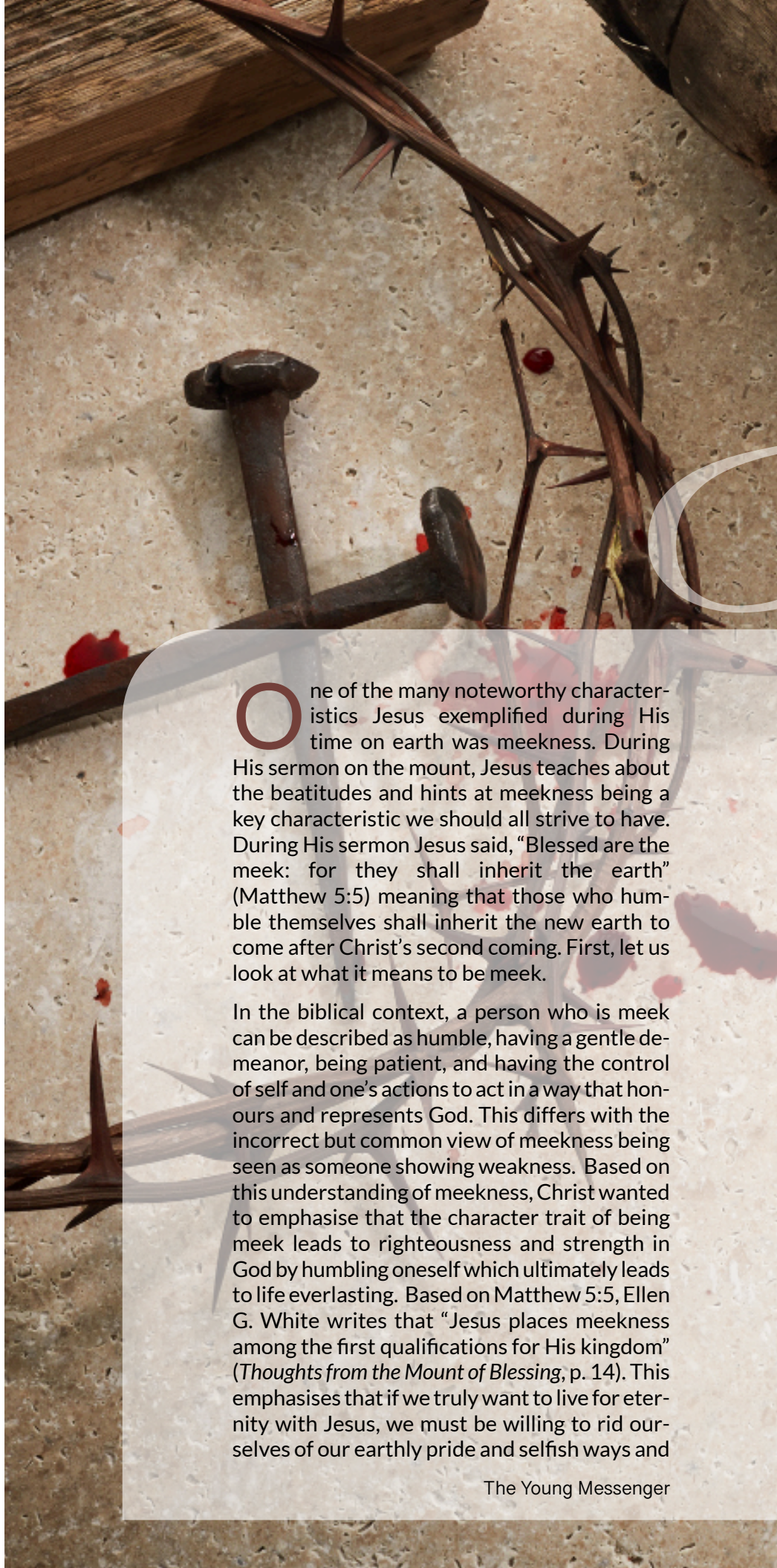
The beauty of these moments is not just in what they reveal about Jesus, but what they offer to us. Hebrews 4:15 says, “For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses.” Jesus’ mourning means we are never alone in ours. When we face loss, when our hearts are heavy, when the world seems overwhelming—Jesus understands. He has felt it. He does not dismiss our pain or demand we hide it. He invites us to bring it to Him. More than that, Jesus gives us an example of how to grieve faithfully. He did not pretend everything was fine. He did not avoid sorrow. He entered it, shared it, and brought it before God. He shows us that mourning is not a failure of faith, but a part of walking through life with hope and honesty.

While Jesus mourned, He also conquered. His tears were real, but they were not the end. After the sorrow came resurrection. After the cross came an empty tomb. Jesus shows us that mourning may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5). As followers of Christ, we can mourn with hope. Because Jesus mourned, we know we are not alone. And because He rose again, we know that even our deepest grief will one day give way to joy.

“Jesus wept.” These two words tell us more about the heart of God than many sermons. They remind us that Jesus was not just a Saviour in the clouds but a man of sorrows, familiar with grief (Isaiah 53:3). He did not shy away from mourning—He embraced it.

So when you find yourself in sorrow, remember: Jesus mourned. He understands. He is with you in your pain. And through Him, there is healing, hope, and resurrection on the other side of every tear.

Amen.



One of the many noteworthy characteristics Jesus exemplified during His time on earth was meekness. During His sermon on the mount, Jesus teaches about the beatitudes and hints at meekness being a key characteristic we should all strive to have. During His sermon Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5) meaning that those who humble themselves shall inherit the new earth to come after Christ’s second coming. First, let us look at what it means to be meek.

In the biblical context, a person who is meek can be described as humble, having a gentle demeanor, being patient, and having the control of self and one’s actions to act in a way that honours and represents God. This differs with the incorrect but common view of meekness being seen as someone showing weakness. Based on this understanding of meekness, Christ wanted to emphasise that the character trait of being meek leads to righteousness and strength in God by humbling oneself which ultimately leads to life everlasting. Based on Matthew 5:5, Ellen G. White writes that “Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for His kingdom” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 14). This emphasises that if we truly want to live for eternity with Jesus, we must be willing to rid ourselves of our earthly pride and selfish ways and



# Jesus

## The Meek

By: Katherine Mitova

instead live out our lives with a meek character.

In her other writings, Ellen G. White states that the “difficulties that the Christian encounters may be very much lessened by that meekness of character which hides itself in Christ. Jesus invites all the weary and heavy laden to come unto Him who is meek and lowly in heart, that they may find rest.” (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 206.2).” Furthermore, she explains that the “[l]owliness of heart is the strength that gives victory to the Christian. His reward is an inheritance of glory” (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 207.1). Her words help us understand that if we surrender humbly to the Lord, not only will He give us rest and peace, but this meekness in our heart and these character traits help us persevere through life’s challenges as a Christian and look towards a future eternal life. By giving everything to Jesus and dying to self daily so that Christ can work through us, our character can be shaped to better exemplify the meek characteristic Christ portrayed during His time on earth.

Beyond just telling people to be meek in character, Jesus showed us what it means to meek through His actions while on earth so that we can follow in His example.

In the first example, let us look at the story of Jesus washing His disciples’ feet. In John 13:3–5 it says, “Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things

into His hands, and that He was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself. After that He poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.” In this passage we see that Jesus shows His meekness as He humbles himself before His disciples and washes their feet which would typically be the duty of a servant. In performing this action, He shows us a key characteristic of being meek as He gently washes each disciples’ feet in this humble act of service. Washing the disciples’ feet required Christ to show meekness through humility to His friends and setting aside the human desire of lifting one’s ego and pride. In this gesture, Christ did the job of a servant who would have been considered to have no social status during Christ’s time on earth. This is exactly the point of this action. The sinful human nature is full of pride and wants to lift oneself up to the highest regard, yet the act of service like washing your friends’ dirty feet after a long day of walking in the dust shows the importance of putting that innate pride we have aside and acting in meekness to those around us.

Furthermore, we can see Jesus’ meekness during the event of the crucifixion. Jesus, through God, had the power to save Himself from the cross, but controlled it and instead sacrificed Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for all our sins out of His love for

us and to fulfill the plan of His Father. This process caused Him unimaginable pain and suffering, yet He persevered through it with resilience and strength. Instead of showing weakness in this moment as Satan may have wished, this moment truly shows Christ's meekness in the strength to overcome the hard moments and to control oneself to forgive others rather than to fight. Christ died ultimately to forgive us from our sins and let us live, which shows the utmost meekness since He could have easily let us die, especially since we have wronged Him countless times. Instead, He humbly offered Himself to pay the ultimate price for our sins. Some of His final words at the cross were "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. This showed Christ's true meekness and care for us whilst He died for all our sins.

These examples help us establish what meekness looks like through the ultimate example of a perfect character—Jesus. It serves as a guide to achieving Christ-like meekness that is full of love, patience, self-control, quiet strength, gentleness, wisdom and humility. In focusing on becoming meek like Christ, we need to set our pride aside and let Him transform our character to align with His in all our actions and thoughts. Only then can we live a life with meekness, mirroring the example Christ has shown us.

Therefore, through the help of the Lord, let us strive to be meek in character for the glory of God and to point others to Him through all that we do.

Amen.

“  
”  
Luke 23:34

**Then said Jesus,  
Father, forgive them;  
for they know not what they do.**

He

“**B**lessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). Matthew chapters 5–7 details one of Jesus’ most famous sermons that we today call *The Sermon on the Mount*. He opened His sermon with a set of blessings that are often referred to as the Beatitudes, which focus on comparing our earthly lives to the treasures that are in store for us in heaven if we are faithful in our walk with Christ. When Jesus was on earth, He not only came to die and “suffer for us”, but He came “leaving us an example, that we should follow in His footsteps.” 1 Peter 2:21. Knowing this, we can take a deeper look into the Beatitudes and see how Christ’s life was a reflection of His words and in every step of the way, He was an example for us.

# Hungered and Thirsted After Righteousness

By: Melissa Avila

# SUS

Looking closer at Matthew 5:6, we may ask ourselves, “what does it even mean to hunger and thirst after righteousness?”. The hungering and thirsting talked about here is a spiritual thirst or rather, a longing and deep desire to be righteous. Jesus talks about this with the Samaritan woman He met by the well. He used the water she was drawing as an analogy for how our spiritual life works and if we are only looking to satisfy the needs of our life here on earth we will never be satisfied, and that is why we need to seek after the living water which is the truth. “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13–14. In the same Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continued to talk about the idea of having the desire

for a righteous life and the concept that there is more to worry about, beyond just our temporal life when He said, “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33. It was so often thought that titles like “Rabbi” or riches were something to strive for in this life to feel complete, fulfilled, or successful, and the same is still true today; having a large house, cars, money, or a job with a lot of power is looked upon as the ultimate success. However, contrary to popular teachings of the time, Jesus taught us the exact opposite and led by example. He did not aspire for earthly riches and when tempted by them in the wilderness, He refused and said “get thee hence Satan.” Matthew 4:10

Thinking back to what it means to hunger and thirst after righteousness, it is clear that this does not merely mean putting on a facade like the scribes and Pharisees did—for they went out into the streets to say their prayers out loud so that they could *look* the part, but did not actually *play* the part. Jesus said “that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20.

Concerning the Sermon on the Mount, Ellen White said this, “the Rabbis counted their righteousness to be a passport to heaven; but Jesus declared it insufficient and unworthy.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 169. So if righteousness is not just an act, or doing right only when people are watching, then how do we truly become righteous? “The righteousness which Christ taught is conformity of heart and life to the revealed will of God. Sinful man can become righteous only as they have faith in God and maintain a vital connection with Him.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 170. To keep this constant connection with God we can “pray without ceasing” like it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and when it comes to the things that occupy our mind, “whatsoever things

are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report... think on these things” Philippians 4:8. We should keep God’s teaching on our minds and if something is troubling us, we should “cast all our cares upon Him.” 1 Peter 5:7

As people who hunger and thirst after righteousness, “the ideal Christian character is Christlikeness” -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 171. With Jesus as our example “who did no sin” and lived a righteous life, we can look upon all the events in His life as our perfect standard. To see Jesus’ constant demonstration of His deep desire to live a life that follows the commands of our heavenly Father, the scene when He cleansed the temple from the people trading in it can be seen as an example. “Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves... And He taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves.” Mark 11:15, 17. The verse Jesus quoted here to the people in the temple was Isaiah 56:7 where it says “for Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.” Jesus studied the scriptures, knew the truth and as such, sought for justice and righteousness to be carried out. He did not sit to the side and let acts of disrespect toward His father’s house of worship be carried out but instead, stood for the right even when everyone else was doing wrong. How often do we do the opposite of what Jesus did, and not stand for the right even when it is unpopular? May He always be an example for us to look at in our day-to-day life. Let us regularly study the scriptures to remind ourselves of God’s perfect teachings, so that we may live a life that aligns with what is right before God.

Amen.

“  
Matthew 6:33

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and His righteousness; and all these  
things shall be added unto you.**





## The Merciful

By: Aines Abragan

# SUS

In a world marred by sin, suffering, and separation from God, the mercy of Jesus Christ stands as a beacon of hope and healing for the lost. His life on earth was not only an example of righteousness but also a living testimony of divine compassion. Mercy is the very being of Jesus' connection with humanity.

The mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ shines with great glory amid the darkness of a fallen world. In Him is revealed the tender compassion of the Infinite. While justice demanded the penalty of sin, mercy interposed, and in the person of Christ, Heaven stooped to earth. He, the Majesty of heaven, veiled His divinity in humanity, that He might reach man in his lost condition and restore him to harmony with the divine will.

## Mercy Manifested in Earthly Ministry

The life of Christ was one continual expression of divine mercy. Never did He pass by a soul in need. With a heart full of compassion, He ministered to the sorrowing, healed the afflicted, and spoke words of comfort to the weary. His dealings with sinners bore the imprint of heavenly love. To the woman found guilty of sin, who had been cast at His feet by the heartless accusers, He spoke not words of condemnation but of pardon: “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” John 8:11

He who reads the heart saw in her the possibility of a new life, and His words awakened hope where despair had reigned. “Her heart was melted, and she cast herself at the feet of Jesus, sobbing out her grateful love... This was to her the beginning of a new life” – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 462

In this act we behold the mingling of mercy and truth, righteousness and peace. Christ did not lower the standard of righteousness but lifted the sinner to meet it. Christ took upon Himself our nature, that He might know by experience the trials and sorrows of mankind. He is not one who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. As a merciful and faithful High Priest, He bears the burdens of His people, interceding in their behalf before the throne of God (Hebrews 2:17). How tender is His sympathy for the tempted and the erring! “*He took man’s nature, that He might reach man’s wants.*” – *Steps to Christ*, p. 11. He who calmed the storm and healed the multitudes weeps with those who mourn, lifts up the fallen with hands of love, has endlessly demonstrated His mercy without reserve.

### Mercy That Ministered to the Multitudes

Christ spoke not of mercy alone; He lived it. In the villages and cities, by the seashore and in the wilderness, He went about doing good. His method of labour was to come close to the people. He mingled with them as one who desired

their good, showed sympathy for their sufferings, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.” “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people...” – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 25. Thus, mercy was expressed not in mere sentiment, but in service. His heart beats in unison with the sorrow-laden and the outcast. In every act, He revealed the character of God—full of grace and truth. Jesus invites all to come unto Him. No soul is so low, no heart so hardened, that His mercy cannot reach it. The arms of divine love are outstretched, and none who come in faith will be cast aside. It is written: “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.” Luke 6:36. We are called not only to receive of His mercy but to reflect it. Freely we have received, freely we must give. “Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves.” – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 25. The Innocent bore the guilt of the guilty, that the guilty might receive the reward of the Innocent. Mercy exalted to the throne, mercy that flows from Calvary, washing away every stain, healing every wound.

### A Call to Reflect the Mercy of Christ

The mercy of Christ is not a passive sentiment but a divine principle that must take root in the heart. Those who behold the mercy of Jesus will be constrained by love to walk as He walked. The spirit of harshness and censure will be put away, and the sweet fragrance of grace will pervade the life. As we are living at the end of times, let us reflect on the mercy of our Saviour who is interceding for us in the Most Holy Place. Remember that amidst the sinfulness of this earth, there is mercy that abounds, calling us to repent and be back safely at His feet. Let us contemplate the Saviour’s mercy, meditate upon His sufferings, and behold His loving-kindness. As we do, our hearts will be softened, our characters transformed, and we shall reflect His light to a darkened world. In word, in deed, in every act of life, we shall be channels of His compassion to others. “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” Matthew 5:7

Amen.

“  
“  
John 8:11

And Jesus said unto her,  
Neither do I condemn thee:  
Go, and sin no more.



## The Pure in Heart

By: Juan Oviedo

“**B**lessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8. Jesus did not just speak these words—He lived them. Every beatitude He shared was a reflection of who He was. When He said the pure in heart would see God, He was not describing an abstract ideal—He was describing Himself. Jesus was pure, not only in action, but in motive. His life was fully transparent before heaven and earth. No pride, no deceit, no hidden agenda. Just pure, holy love.

The purity Jesus displayed was not about avoiding outward sin only; it was about being completely surrendered to the Father’s will. His heart was undivided. “From the beginning of His ministry,” Ellen White writes, “He was guarded by divine power, and stood forth pure and undefiled.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 113. This kind of purity is what we are invited into—not just through effort, but through His transforming grace.

Even in His youth, Jesus was “about His Father’s business.” Luke 2:49. That has always stood out to me. At a time when most young people are trying to figure out who they are, Jesus already knew who He was. He was not chasing popularity or trying to fit in. His heart was pure—set apart for God.

When tempted in the wilderness, Jesus did not entertain sin for a moment. Satan offered Him shortcuts—power without the cross—but He chose faithfulness over ease. “With the same confidence and firmness that He had resisted temptation in the wilderness, He resisted it again and again,” Ellen White says (*Messages to Young People*, p. 25). That speaks to me. Purity is not just about one moment; it is about choosing God day after day.

Jesus also showed purity in the way He treated others. He never acted to impress. He did not perform miracles to gain a crowd, and He never looked

down on those society rejected. When He reached out to the woman caught in adultery or touched the leper, it was not just compassion—it was a heart that saw through heaven’s eyes. “His life was one of constant self-sacrifice,” Ellen White writes. “He was pure, without spot or stain of sin.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 12

And even on the cross, when most would give in to anger or despair, Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them.” That kind of mercy only flows from a clean heart. What moves me most is that Jesus does not just model purity—He offers it. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He gives us the power to have clean hearts too. It is not about being perfect on our own. It is about inviting Him in to do the work we cannot do ourselves.

“It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ.” – *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 419

The more we spend time with Jesus—through the Word, through prayer, through surrender—the more our hearts are made new. The pure in heart *shall* see God, not just someday in heaven, but even now—in the quiet moments of prayer, in the beauty of creation, and in the faces of those around us.

Amen.

#### Reflection:

1. Am I asking Jesus to create in me a clean heart—or just trying to fix myself?
2. Is my motive to be seen by others, or to please God?
3. Where can I let Jesus in more fully, so my life reflects Him more clearly?



“  
Luke 2:49

Wist ye not that  
I must be about  
My Father's business?



## The Peacemaker

By: Damaris Hunger

“**B**lessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”  
Matthew 5:9

When was the last time you truly felt peace? In the chaos of daily life, tough decisions, or just the noise of the world, real peace can feel rare. But Jesus

takes it further—He says those who **make** peace, not just feel it, are actually called the *children of God*.

Why? Because peacemaking reflects the values of God’s Kingdom. While the world (in daily life as well as world events) is often all about drama, pride, and competition, God’s Kingdom is about love, faith, and peace.

### Jesus Was the Ultimate Contrast

Jesus stood out in a world full of conflict. He came to *show us* what heaven is like and how the heavenly family behaves—through His actions, not just His words. He did not come to fight for earthly status or to take revenge. He came to bring peace—even when it defied people’s expectations of a “saviour.”

One of His titles is Prince of Peace: “For unto us a child is born... and his name shall be called... The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

You see, back in Jesus’ time, many were waiting for a political hero to overthrow the Romans. This seemed like a natural and well-deserved response to the cruelty of this oppressing power. But Jesus said: “My kingdom is not of this world.” John 18:36. He came with something far greater than earthly power—*peace that lasts*.

### “Put Your Sword Away.”

In the Garden of Gethsemane, things were getting real. Jesus’ disciples still had not fully adopted the principles of God’s kingdom. Soldiers came to arrest Jesus, and Peter freaked out. He pulled out a sword and cut off a man’s ear. But Jesus stopped him immediately: “Put up again thy sword into his

place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” Matthew 26:52

Jesus was saying, *This is not how we roll*. In other words: this is not how My kingdom operates. His followers do not fight fire with fire. He even healed the man’s ear (Luke 22:51), showing that peace is more powerful than violence.

Jesus had total trust in His Father. He could have called down thousands of angels to defend Himself (Matthew 26:53), but instead, He chose the way of peace—even if it meant suffering.

### Love Your Enemies?

Yup. Jesus taught something completely different than the culture around Him: “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you... and pray for them which despitefully use you... That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...” Matthew 5:43-45

See it again? *Children of your Father*. Peacemakers are God’s kids. It’s like our family trait.

Think of it this way: If someone said, “Oh, she’s the girl who always encourages people,” or “He’s the guy who helps everyone,” wouldn’t that be awesome? As followers of Jesus, we want to be known as the ones who bring peace wherever we go.

### Even On the Cross

Even as Jesus was being crucified—falsely accused, mocked, beaten—He chose peace: “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

That kind of forgiveness and peace is not natural—it is supernatural. And that same peace is available to you.

### Real Peace Comes from Jesus

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

Peace starts with knowing Jesus. He makes things right between us and God, bringing peace to a broken relationship between Creator and creation. And when we are at peace with God, we can bring peace into our relationships, schools, families, and even our own thoughts.

“Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165. When we learn more about God, His Word, and the principles that govern His kingdom, we grow in peace—and nothing can shake us.

### Peace in the Storm

There was a moment when Jesus and the disciples were in a boat during a wild storm. Despite having witnessed Jesus’ power in so many of His miracles, the disciples still panicked and said, “*Master, carest Thou not that we perish?*” Jesus got up and calmed the storm with a few words. Then He asked: “Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” Mark 4:40

They had come to know what Jesus was like, but had not fully put their faith and trust in Him. Is this where you are stuck? Sometimes, we feel like life is out of control—but Jesus can calm every storm, inside and out. We just have to invite Him into our life and ask Him to give us peace in the storm.

### Final Thought

Jesus is the Peacemaker. And He is inviting you to join His family—to walk in His peace and share it with others.

You do not have to fight to be heard, to win arguments, or to prove anything.

You just have to trust the One who already won the victory—and then go out and live in that trust, letting your faith guide your actions. Where is God inviting you to be a peacemaker today?

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” Matthew 5:9

Amen.



Peace, Be Still...  
Why are ye so fearful?  
How is it that ye have no faith?

Mark 4:39-40

# Jesus

## The Persecuted

By: Mathew Romero

“**B**lessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10

When Jesus said these words He did not simply provide some kind words that sounded nice and pleased people; no, He was talking about life, His own life. Jesus did not just preach how to live one's own life, Jesus lived it out. Every word that He spoke He lived completely.

From the very beginning Jesus was not afraid to go against the norm. He welcomed and befriended people that society rejected and despised. Not only that, but He made sure to call out the religious leaders for being hypocrites. He did not do this for attention or for fame, but He did it because it was the right thing to do, to make known the corruption and ill doings being dealt to God's people. Everything He did came from love, compassion, and a deep connection to His Father. But instead of people being inspired, a lot of them were threatened. The light Jesus brought into the world exposed the darkness in people's hearts, and they did not like it.

Jesus even warned His disciples that this kind of reaction would happen to them too. In John 15:18 we read “If the world hates you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you.” In other words, if you are trying to live your life like Jesus, not everyone is going to be okay with it.

And, as we know, Jesus was telling the truth. Despite all the good things that Jesus did throughout His life He was not treated properly. He was lied about, betrayed, arrested, beaten, insulted and nailed to a cross. Throughout Jesus's life span He never did one thing wrong in His life. He only did good and cared for others and sought to save everyone.

However, through all of this Jesus never fought back or sought revenge. He did not change His message to please others or to make people like Him. He did not fall under the pressure, He stayed strong. Even while dying on the cross, He prayed for the people hurting Him: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing" Luke 23:34. That kind of love and strength? It is honestly hard to even wrap your head around but it is the exact example Jesus set for us to follow.

So, what does that mean for us? Will we receive the same resistance/treatment that Jesus did? If our intention is to live our lives the way Jesus did, yes there will be resistance and tough times. Perhaps you have felt it, maybe you have been mocked or misunderstood for standing up for someone or mispeaking about your faith. It does not always come in big, dramatic moments, sometimes it is quiet, awkward, and isolating.

Here is the good news, you are not alone. Jesus and the whole army of heaven is at your side. Jesus will never abandon you, He will always be by your side to guide and protect you. Jesus said we are blessed when we are persecuted, Let us read once again Matthew 5:10. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Standing for righteousness actually means something. It matters. God sees it. And He is with you in it. We read in 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." We are comforted with the fact that Jesus is with us and believes in us every step of the way.

Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, later on in his

life wrote that if you suffer for doing good, that is something acceptable with God. This is found in 1 Peter 2:20–21, "For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:". He said this is part of our calling because Jesus suffered too, and we are following in His footsteps.

Living that out does not have to mean some huge heroic moment. It can look like standing up for someone who is being treated unfairly, even if it costs you socially. It can be choosing not to cheat on a test, even when everyone else is. It can be not joining in on gossip, even if staying quiet makes things awkward. It might be talking about your faith when you are nervous about how people will react.

Perhaps these seem like small and insignificant things, but they are actually powerful and guiding you down the correct path. These choices which may seem small show the world what following Jesus really looks like. And yeah, sometimes there is a price for doing the right thing, but there is also a reward. Jesus said, "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." That is not just a future reward, it starts now. When we live God's way, we experience His peace, His strength, and His presence in a real way.

If you have ever felt discouraged for doing the right thing and not being appreciated or even being treated badly for it just remember, Jesus went through it too, He went through it for us. He understands better than anyone what you are feeling. He is not asking you to do anything he has not already done Himself. He is with you, cheering you on, and reminding you that what really matters is not the world's approval. It is His.

Yes, being different and doing the right thing is not always popular and may feel lonely at times. However, we are never truly alone, we have our dear friend Jesus by our side.

Amen.



John 16:33

**In the world ye shall have tribulation:  
but be of good cheer;  
I have overcome the world.**

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# LOUD CRY NEWS

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WHAT HAPPENED, IS HAPPENING AND WILL HAPPEN

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Food for Thought:

## Why Some Youth Leave the Church, And How to Bring Them Back

By Jason Climaco, Canadian Field Youth Department Leader

If you have ever had a friend leave the church, do me a favour and raise your right hand. If we were sitting in a pew, you'd probably be surprised to see just how many people (including me) would have their hands raised.

Every year, we have more and more people leave the church, and sometimes some goodbyes hurt more than others.

Why do people leave? Well, it is not as cut and dry as you would think.

For starters, sometimes they do not even share why they stop coming to church—they just stop.

One Sabbath they are there, and the next, they are not.

No goodbye.

No hug.

Gone.

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Still, for those that do leave, here might be some reasons why:

- **A lack of belonging**
- **Feeling ignored or dismissed**
- **The church feeling “irrelevant”**
- **Boredom**
- **Relationships with those outside of the church that influence them to leave**
- **Anger or resentment with church expectations**
- **Leaving after making a mistake**

This list is not comprehensive, but it does show us that there are real problems that youth (or people in general) feel when it comes to leaving. As you read through the list you might have seen that the decision to leave is not easy. Though some do not *want* to leave, they feel that leaving is their only option.

And so some do not leave, per se, but are *checked out*; physically there, emotionally elsewhere.

But some do.

We may still see them through an occasional social media post, or at a conference, but their connection to the church is not what it once was.

So, what do we do with all this? If it is inevitable that youth (and sometimes our friends) will leave, should we just shrug our shoulders and walk away?

### The Example of Jesus

Jesus knew that people would leave. He knew that people that once walked with us would one day disappear. Despite this, Jesus’ example shows us clearly that at the loss of just one person He would “leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness” (Luke 15:4). Rather than forget about even one person, Jesus would go after them with all of His heart to bring them back. Jesus cared (and cares!) for each person who is on the fence about leaving, who has felt shame for one thing or another, who feels “out of place,” who feels angry, or even resented.

Jesus cares.

And we should too.



### So what now?

What do we do when we hear a person wants to leave?

*And no, you do not hold them tight and beg them to stay.*

But what if before they left, we gave them a reason to stay?

Revelation 2:4–5 tells us that it is possible to “leave thy first love”. It is possible that youth leave because they’ve fallen out of love with God, the church, and faith. The first way that you can help someone who is leaving/has left the church is to encourage that person to reconnect with God. Encourage them to pray (or better yet, pray with them!). Invite them out to eat, and give them time to voice their concerns. Listen to them, and pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say to help someone on their spiritual walk. Just as Jesus went after the One Lost Sheep, God asks us to go after our friends, and loved ones who may be on their own journey.

Sometimes listening, and encouragement isn’t enough though. This is where you need to consider



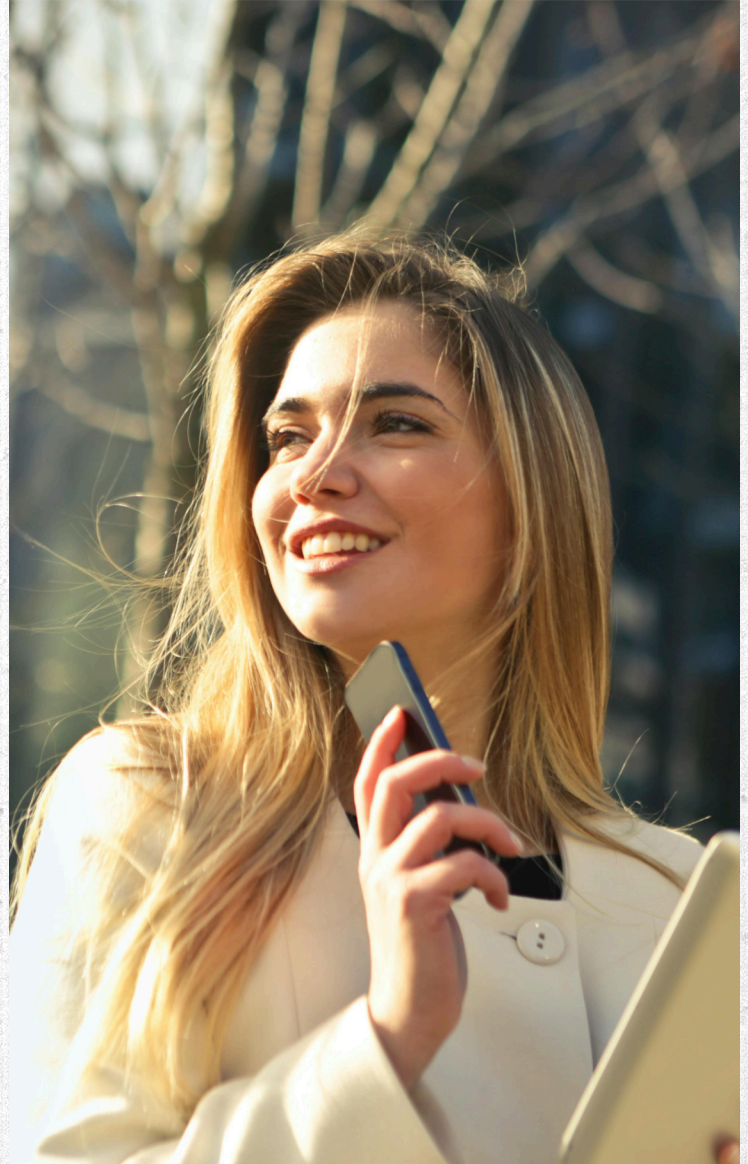
things like their experiences, their unique perspectives and what they might not be sharing out loud. Are there circumstances in their life that are stopping them from coming back? Is there something that has happened that you can help them solve? Is there anything you can do to make things better? Think tangible, real actions, not only words, or prayers.

When we move from words to actions, real change can happen.

### The Reconciling We're Called to Do

I know it's hard. Hard to reach out. Hard to pick up a phone. Hard to write a message.

Especially when it feels like that person wants nothing to do with the church anymore.



But remember that God is with you every step of the way. 2 Corinthians 5:18 tells us that we have been given the work of “reconciliation”. This means that our special mission on earth is to bring people back to God. Just as Jesus brought people to God, we’re asked to follow His example, and method too!

I invite you to take the first step. To pray to God to put young people in your heart who are in the process of leaving the church or who have left altogether. Ask God to guide you, and that the Holy Spirit can give you words to say and the actions to take to bring youth back to Church, and to Jesus.

Amen.



# Message from the Youth Leader

Hi everyone,

I hope that you have hit the ground running this new school year! Whether it be your first year of high school, your last year of middle school, or even your last year of university (!) I want to tell you that:

God has got your back.

This year God wants you to succeed and reach the goals that you have set for yourself. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God “knows the thoughts that [He] has for you” and that those thoughts are of “peace and not of evil.” God wants your year to be prosperous, and He reminds us that He is with us every step of the way.

With that being said, I also want you to know that the Youth Department has your back too! We are continuing to work behind the scenes to make sure we are planning programs, events, and special days for each of you.

Some upcoming things to get excited for are:

- **Bi-weekly Friday Bible Studies**
- **Birthday Buddies starting January 2026**
- **A Youth Weekend in Ontario in December 2025**
- **The Western Field Youth Camp in Calgary, AB in June 2026**

God has blessed the Youth Department, and we look forward to seeing how He continues working through our department as we close 2025, and start 2026.

Yours,

Br. Jason Climaco

Canadian Field Youth Leader



## Voice of Youth Box



"Voice of Youth Box" is a unique online space where you can share your voice. It can be questions about faith, requests for advice about your concerns, suggestions about the youth department plan, or any voice you would like to make! It is all anonymous, so feel free to share your deepest thoughts. Do you have anything to share? Please scan the QR code. Right here in this magazine, we will share our answers to some suggestions/questions sent through this box.

## Upcoming Youth Events in Other Countries



International Youth Conference

- Date: December 28, 2025 – January 4, 2026
- Location: Sonogno, Switzerland

Please check out the link below for more information and for registration:  
<https://avventismo.com/eventi>

## Join Our Group!

If you are interested in joining our WhatsApp group chat, please send your contact information to our email!

[canadianreformyouth@gmail.com](mailto:canadianreformyouth@gmail.com)

## Follow Us!

Are you interested in seeing more posts and news about upcoming events? Follow the official social media accounts of Loud Cry Youth.

- Facebook: CanadianReformYouth
- Instagram: LoudCry.Youth
- Website: [www.4truth.ca/youth](http://www.4truth.ca/youth)



“And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain...  
And He opened His mouth, and taught them...”

Matthew 5:1–2



THE YOUNG MESSENGER

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