

Blessed in the Journey

Learning the Beatitudes Beside the Horse

Word of God

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

How have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15

O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish
the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
it pleased God through the folly of what we preach
to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,
but we preach Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,
but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers:
not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.
But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
God chose what is low and despised in the world,
even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,
so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.
And because of him you are in Christ Jesus,
who became to us wisdom from God,
righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain,
and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Reflections in the Field

Horses respond to the world with clarity and groundedness. They move through the field with awareness, noticing every shift in wind, posture, and emotion—yet remaining steady because of the confidence formed through relationship.

The Beatitudes call us into this same grounded way of being. Blessedness is not about outward success or self-assertion; it is about living in alignment with God’s heart. Horses teach us this alignment daily. They do not chase status. They seek peace, connection, trust, and truth.

To walk humbly with God is to walk like the horse—steady, aware, gentle, rooted, and responsive to the One who leads.

Lutheran Reflection

Luther writes, “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace” (Preface to Romans).

This confidence is not arrogance, but humble trust—like a horse who rests in the presence of one she trusts.

The Beatitudes and Micah 6:8 reveal the shape of such confidence: a life turned outward, shaped by mercy, justice, and humility.

Reflection Prompts

- What part of the Beatitudes speaks most directly into your life right now?

- How does your horse teach you about humility, groundedness, or gentleness?

- Where might God be inviting you to walk differently—in justice, mercy, or humility?

- How do you experience Christ’s blessing even in difficult seasons?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You bless the humble, the weary, the seeking, and the courageous. Shape my heart to walk in Your way—with gentleness, strength, and an openness to the work You are doing in me. Teach me, as the horse teaches, to be grounded, steady, and responsive to Your leading. Amen.

*“The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”
— Numbers 6:24–26*