

Matthew 5:1-12

The Common English Bible

¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ²He taught them, saying: ³“Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ⁴“Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. ⁵“Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. ⁷“Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. ⁸“Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. ⁹“Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children. ¹⁰“Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ¹¹“Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. ¹²Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

The Common English Bible

¹I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise will always be in my mouth. ²I praise the Lord - let the suffering listen and rejoice. ³Magnify the Lord with me! Together let us lift his name up high!

⁴I sought the Lord and he answered me. He delivered me from all my fears. ⁵Those who look to God will shine; their faces are never ashamed.

⁶This suffering person cried out: the Lord listened and saved him from every trouble. ⁷On every side, the Lord’s messenger protects those who honor God; and he delivers them.

⁸Taste and see how good the Lord is! The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy!

⁹You who are the Lord’s holy ones, honor him, because those who honor him don’t lack a thing. ¹⁰Even strong young lions go without and get hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

²²The Lord saves his servants’ lives; all those who take refuge in him won’t be held responsible for anything.

Revelation 7:9-17

The Common English Bible

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out with a loud voice: “Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ¹¹All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and always. Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders said to me, “Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” Then he said to me, “These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb’s blood. ¹⁵This is the reason they are before God’s throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They won’t hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, ¹⁷because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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