**Blessed are the Dead who Die in the Lord**

Based on [Matthew 5:1-12](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Mt5.1-12)

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All Saints’ Day (Observed)

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As he opens his famous sermon on the mount, Jesus announces his famous list of nine beatitudes or “blessings”. Blessed are the poor in spirit; **Blessed are those who mourn, the meek, the peacemakers**. Blessed are the persecuted.

Jesus is not *wishing* a blessing upon them. These nine beatitudes are declarations. They are judgments. Jesus does not say, “***May God bless*** the poor in spirit”, he judges and says “***Blessed are*** the poor, meek, and so on..” They *are* blessed,. They do not *look* blessed. They might not *feel* blessed. But they are blessed. And the reason they are blessed is because they presently possess the promise of the kingdom of God, and they will find eternal comfort in death, and will someday be raised and they inherit the earth.

This is analogous for people who live in free countries like Canada today. There is a common saying for people who complain about small things despite having all of the necessaries of life, and more. They are complaining about their **“first-world problems**.” Running out of milk in the middle of a recipe, “*oh bother, my cake is ruined and so is my day!*” Road construction makes you wait an extra five minutes to get somewhere, what bad luck. “*How can anyone be expected to live like this?”*

Now, these are problems, they interfere with the orderly management of our lives, and God is a God of order not chaos. You may grumble without sin, but you must also keep perspective. **There are those who don’t have milk to begin with; there people who have no car to begin with.** There are people who don’t know where there next meal will come from…save that it will come from the Lord. And we’re going to consider our day cursed from a little setback?

If we Canadians mostly suffer first world problems, How much more insignificant are the daily problems of those who have been reconciled to God? Jesus says, “**Have no fear little flock, it is the father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom**.” You have more than kings and princes of this world; you have the righteousness of Christ, you will judge the angels? Why grumble as though you are cursed?

You have a treasure laid up in heaven that moth and rust cannot destroy. You have salvation, you have forgiveness, you have Christ, you have his Spirit in you. **God may bless you more or less with success in this life; He might deliver you from harm, or test and forge you through hard times.** But don’t lose perspective; you have more than the world though the world is blind to it. Heaven is yours, and whatever happens to you here, it cannot change your status before God. Therefore you are blessed. Praise God and be glad in your Maker.

There is a special comfort Jesus affords to those who suffer some deprivation in the world. The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. **These things are the opposite of worldly pursuits, and the world has no drivers for such a program. The world does not know the blessedness of the meek.** Assertiveness, competitiveness, the squeaky wheel gets the grease in this life—and the meek who turn the other cheek, and suffer for nothing are losers, and the world cannot understand such passivity. But John says, “**The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him**” [Christ]. Those who find no comfort in this world, they are truly blessed, because they are the ones who welcome Christ when he comes to save them.

Today is All Saints’ Day. We are Saints gathered in the name of the Lord, and so today is about us. Traditionally, though, today is not so much about us. We have suffered much, but our race is not yet completed. **The Lord calls us to endurance, as we keep the commandments of God and faith in Jesus.** The world judges us cursed, but Jesus declares us blessed because of what we will be in heaven.

But All Saints’ Day is especially about the saints in heaven. Today we give thanks to God for those who have died in Christ and ascended to glory. Jesus’ nine beatitudes are not addressed to them, but they are blessed for sure. Revelation 14:13 says. “**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!**”

The world doesn’t see it, but you should be aware, that at a Christian funeral, *the most blessed person present is the one who has died*. They died in the Lord, they are comforted and now rest from their labors. “**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints**” (Psalm 116:15).

I**n heaven, there is no persecution for worshipping the king of kings. There is no scoffing at the Word, no temptation, no sin, no injustice. Every tear will be wiped from every eye, because we will know God and see him face to face.** Blessed are we who mourn, for we will be comforted. The dead in Christ are comforted now, until the promise is fulfilled that has yet to be fulfilled for all the saints. Jesus says the meek will inherit the earth. The saints in heaven have yet to inherit the earth, as do we. That will happen when the dead are raised and are given new spiritual bodies to inhabit a new creation, new heaven and a new earth.

Until that glorious day we confess: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. While we continue to work; their deeds have followed them to their Lord in paradise, until He comes again with them in glory.

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,*

*Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,*

*Thy name O Jesus be forever blessed*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* - LSB 677