

WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2026

**5-Day Devotional  
based on Sunday's message:**



*Sermon on the Mount: Blessed Are the Pure in Heart  
Matthew 5:1-20*

Provided by



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## Matthew 5:1-20

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them. “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

# Day 1: Empty Hands, Full Heart

## Devotional

What if the very thing we think disqualifies us from God's kingdom is actually our entry point? Being poor in spirit isn't about financial status or emotional weakness. Instead, it's about recognizing our complete spiritual bankruptcy before a holy God. This acknowledgment feels uncomfortable in a culture that celebrates self-sufficiency and personal achievement. Yet, Jesus begins the Beatitudes with profound truth that the Kingdom on Heaven belongs to those who know they have nothing to offer. When we stop trying to impress God with our goodness and instead come with empty hands, we discover something beautiful. God doesn't need our perfection. He desires our surrender. The moment we stop pretending we have it all together is the moment we become candidates for His transforming work. This isn't about self-deprecation or false humility, but about honest recognition of our need for grace.

## Bible Verse

'God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.' - Matthew 5:3

## Reflection Question

Where am I still trying to bring something to God instead of coming empty handed before Him?

## Quote

The Kingdom [of Heaven] is not achieved, it's received. And, it's received by those who know they have nothing to bring of themselves.

## Prayer

God, help me release my need to prove myself worthy of Your love. Teach me to come before You with empty hands and an open heart, ready to receive what only You can give. Amen.

## Day 2: Sacred Sorrow

### Devotional

Tears can be transformative. When we truly understand how our sin affects God's heart, casual indifference gives way to genuine grief. This isn't about wallowing in shame or self-condemnation, but about developing God's perspective on the things that separate us from Him and others. Mourning over sin means we stop making excuses or minimizing our failures. Instead, we allow our hearts to break over what breaks God's heart. This sacred sorrow isn't meant to crush us but to cleanse us. It's the difference between feeling bad about getting caught and feeling grieved about the damage our choices create. When we mourn authentically, we position ourselves to receive God's comfort. He doesn't leave us in our grief but meets us there with healing and hope. This divine comfort doesn't just ease our pain, but transforms our perspective and deepens our compassion for others who are struggling.

### Bible Verse

'God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' - Matthew 5:4

### Reflection Question

Do I treat sin casually or do I allow it to break my heart like it breaks God's heart?

### Quote

[Mourning] is a grief that aligns with God's perspective. It's seeing sin clearly in our lives, not minimizing it, not excusing it, but feeling its weight.

### Prayer

Lord, give me a heart that grieves over sin the way You do. Help me move beyond casual indifference to genuine sorrow that leads to transformation and deeper intimacy with You. Amen.

# Day 3: Strength Under Surrender

## Devotional

True strength isn't about forcing our way through life. True strength is about yielding our power to the One who knows how to use it best. Meekness gets misunderstood as weakness, but it's actually strength under control, power surrendered to God's purposes. Think of a skilled horse that responds to the gentlest touch of the reins, not because it lacks power, but because it trusts its rider. When we embrace meekness, we stop fighting for our rights and start trusting God's timing. We release our need to control outcomes and instead focus on faithful obedience. This doesn't mean becoming passive or allowing others to walk over us. Rather, it means channeling our strength through God's wisdom instead of our own impulses. The beautiful promise attached to meekness is inheritance, not just of earthly blessings, but of God's kingdom purposes. When we surrender control, we gain access to resources and opportunities that our striving could never achieve.

## Bible Verse

'God blesses those who are humble [meek], for they will inherit the whole earth.' - Matthew 5:5

## Reflection Question

In what areas of my life am I still trying to maintain control instead of trusting God's leadership?

## Quote

Meekness is strength under surrender. Power that is yielded to God because we trust Him.

## Prayer

Father, help me surrender my need to control and instead trust Your perfect timing and wisdom. Teach me that true strength comes through yielding to You. Amen.

# Day 4: Holy Hunger

## Devotional

What are you truly hungry for? Not just interested in or occasionally thinking about, but genuinely craving with the intensity of physical hunger? Jesus speaks of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. People whose deepest longing is to see God's ways established in their lives and world. This isn't about mild spiritual interest or weekend religious activity. It's about a consuming desire for God's justice, mercy, and truth to reign. When we hunger for righteousness, we're not content with surface-level spirituality. We want transformation that goes to the core of who we are. The promise is profound that those who hunger will be filled. God doesn't ignore genuine spiritual appetite. When we truly desire His righteousness more than our comfort, success, or approval, He satisfies that longing in ways that exceed our expectations. This filling isn't a one-time event but an ongoing feast for those who maintain their holy hunger.

## Bible Verse

'God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice [righteousness], for they will be satisfied.' - Matthew 5:6

## Reflection Question

What am I hungering for most in my life right now, God's righteousness or something else?

## Quote

This hunger, this thirst is not a mild interest. It's a deep necessity in our lives. It's a desire. It's a longing. It is a lifelong pursuit. Righteousness, like hunger and thirst, cannot be ignored. Righteousness here, justice is not just about behavior.... It's a longing to be right with God. It is a desire to see what is broken in this world made right.

## Prayer

God, create in me a deep hunger for Your righteousness that surpasses all other desires. Fill me with Your goodness and justice in ways that transform my heart and actions. Amen.

# Day 5: Undivided Heart

## Devotional

Your heart is like a compass, whatever captures it most determines the direction of your entire life. A pure heart isn't a perfect heart, but a focused heart. It's not about being sinless but about being single-minded in our devotion to God. Many of us struggle with divided hearts, pulled between God and other competing loyalties like success, relationships, comfort, or control. Purity of heart means steadily aligning our deepest affections toward God rather than scattering our devotion across multiple masters. It's about integrity, having our inner life match our outer confession. When our hearts are pure, we see God more clearly because nothing else is clouding our vision. This kind of heart transformation doesn't happen through willpower alone. It requires honestly examining what currently holds pieces of our heart that belong to God, then intentionally redirecting our focus toward Him. As we do this, everything else in our lives begins to align with His purposes.

## Bible Verse

'God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.' - Matthew 5:8

## Reflection Question

What currently has a piece of your heart that belongs to God?

## Quote

A pure heart is not a perfect heart. It is not a sinless heart. It is a heart that is fully oriented toward God, not partially engaged, not occasionally devoted, but steadily aligned toward God in our lives.

## Prayer

Lord, purify my heart and help me focus my deepest affections on You alone. Remove the distractions that divide my attention and give me clarity to see You more clearly. Amen.