

*SERMON*  
*on the*  
*MOUNT*  
*Study texts*

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## *Blessed are You—Week 1—March 6, 10*

Matthew 5:6

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

Exodus 16:1-5, 13-18

16 The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>**The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”**

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, **“I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.”**

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, **“What is it?”**<sup>[a]</sup> For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, **“It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’”** <sup>17</sup>The Israelites did so,

some gathering more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

Exodus 17:1-7

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, **“Give us water to drink.”** Moses said to them, **“Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”** <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, **“Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”**

<sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, **“What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”** <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, **“Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.”** Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, **“Is the LORD among us or not?”**

Joel 2:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,

return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

**Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,**  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,

**'Where is their God?'**

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land,  
and had pity on his people.

<sup>19</sup>In response to his people the LORD said:

I am sending you

grain, wine, and oil,

and you will be satisfied;

and I will no more make you

a mockery among the nations.

Luke 6:20-26

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

**"Blessed are you who are poor,**  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>**"Blessed are you who are hungry now,**

for you will be filled.

**"Blessed are you who weep now,**  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>**"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when**  
they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on ac-  
count of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and  
leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heav-  
en; for that is what their ancestors did to the proph-  
ets.

<sup>24</sup>**"But woe to you who are rich,**  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>**"Woe to you who are full now,**  
for you will be hungry.

**"Woe to you who are laughing now,**  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>**"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is**  
what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

**"My soul magnifies the Lord,**

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his  
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

**to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Matthew 5:1-11

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

<sup>4</sup> **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

<sup>5</sup> **“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

<sup>7</sup> **“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**

<sup>8</sup> **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

<sup>9</sup> **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

<sup>10</sup> **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

<sup>11</sup> **“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

Genesis 12:1-3

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, **“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.** <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will

bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the **earth shall be blessed.”**

Isaiah 53:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup> Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

Galatians 3:1-9

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! <sup>2</sup> The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. <sup>5</sup> Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

<sup>6</sup>Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” <sup>7</sup>so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” <sup>9</sup>For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

Genesis 12:3

<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Romans 4:13-25

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.

<sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Ephesians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on

Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption **as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.**

1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But **rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.** <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. <sup>15</sup>But let

none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. <sup>16</sup>Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And **"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,**

**what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?"**

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with **God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator,** while continuing to do good.

Acts 5:27-42

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>**saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."** <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, **"We must obey God rather than any human authority."** <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given **to those who obey him."**

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. <sup>35</sup>**Then he said to them, "Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men."** <sup>36</sup>For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed,

and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. <sup>37</sup> After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup> So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; <sup>39</sup> but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found **fighting against God!**"

They were convinced by him, <sup>40</sup> and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

Matthew 25:31-34

<sup>31</sup> **"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;**

2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Peter 2:7-8

<sup>7</sup> and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the lawless <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by their lawless deeds that he saw and heard),

Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

**"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

**"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom**

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

**be to our God forever and ever! Amen."**

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
**and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.  
<sup>35</sup>He turns a desert into pools of water,  
a parched land into springs of water.  
<sup>36</sup>And there he lets the hungry live,  
and they establish a town to live in;  
<sup>37</sup>they sow fields, and plant vineyards,  
and get a fruitful yield.  
<sup>38</sup>By his blessing they multiply greatly,  
and he does not let their cattle decrease.

Judges 9:44-45

<sup>44</sup>Abimelech and the company that was with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city, while the two companies rushed on all who were in the fields and killed them. <sup>45</sup>Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city, and killed the people that were in it; and he razed the city and sowed it with salt.

Job 6:6

<sup>6</sup>Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt,  
or is there any flavor in the juice of mallows?

### *Salt and Light—Week 2— March 13 and 17*

Matthew 5:13

Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup>**“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.**

Psalm 107:33-38

<sup>33</sup>He turns rivers into a desert,  
springs of water into thirsty ground,  
<sup>34</sup>a fruitful land into a salty waste,

Ezekiel 16:1-6

<sup>16</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>Mortal, make known to Jerusalem her abominations, <sup>3</sup>and say, Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite, and your mother a Hittite. <sup>4</sup>As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in cloths. <sup>5</sup>No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you out of compassion for you; but you were thrown out in the open field, for you were abhorred on the day you were born.

<sup>6</sup>I passed by you, and saw you flailing about in your **blood. As you lay in your blood, I said to you, "Live!**

Leviticus 2:13

<sup>13</sup>You shall not omit from your grain offerings the salt of the covenant with your God; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

2 Kings 2:19-22

<sup>19</sup>**Now the people of the city said to Elisha, "The location of this city is good, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful."** <sup>20</sup>He said, **"Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it."** So they brought it to him. <sup>21</sup>Then he went to the spring of **water and threw the salt into it, and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have made this water wholesome; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it."** <sup>22</sup>So the water has been wholesome to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

Numbers 18:19

<sup>19</sup>All the holy offerings that the Israelites present to the LORD I have given to you, together with your sons and daughters, as a perpetual due; it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD for you and your descendants as well.

2 Chronicles 13:5

<sup>5</sup>Do you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?

Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and dark-

ness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God **said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.** <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

1 Timothy 6:13-16

<sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

1 John 1:5

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Psalms 18:6-12

<sup>6</sup>In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.

<sup>7</sup>Then the earth reeled and rocked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled  
and quaked, because he was angry.

<sup>8</sup>Smoke went up from his nostrils,  
and devouring fire from his mouth;

*Prayer and Fasting—Session 3—  
March 20 and 24*

Matthew 6:9

**9“Pray then in this way:**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

1 Samuel 1

1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite—from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah .... <sup>2</sup>He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

<sup>3</sup>Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. <sup>4</sup>On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; <sup>5</sup>but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup>Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup>So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup>Her husband Elkanah said to her,

**“Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”**

<sup>9</sup>After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. <sup>10</sup>She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup>She made **this vow: “O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not**

forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine **nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”**

<sup>12</sup>As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup>Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. <sup>14</sup>**So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.”** <sup>15</sup>**But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. <sup>16</sup>Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.”**

<sup>17</sup>**Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.”** <sup>18</sup>And she said, **“Let your servant find favor in your sight.”** Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

<sup>19</sup>They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. <sup>20</sup>In due time Hannah conceived and **bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the LORD.”**

<sup>21</sup>The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup>But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, **“As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.”** <sup>23</sup>**Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the LORD establish his word.” So the**

woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup>When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. <sup>25</sup>Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup>**And she said, "Oh, my lord!** As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup>For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup>Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." **She left him there for the LORD.**

Numbers 6:1-8

<sup>6</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>2</sup>Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When either men or women make a special vow, the vow of a nazirite, to separate themselves to the LORD, <sup>3</sup>they shall separate themselves from wine and strong drink; they shall drink no wine vinegar or other vinegar, and shall not drink any grape juice or eat grapes, fresh or dried. <sup>4</sup>All their days as nazirites they shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, not even the seeds or the skins.

<sup>5</sup>All the days of their nazirite vow no razor shall come upon the head; until the time is completed for which they separate themselves to the LORD, they shall be holy; they shall let the locks of the head grow long.

<sup>6</sup>All the days that they separate themselves to the LORD they shall not go near a corpse. <sup>7</sup>Even if their father or mother, brother or sister, should die, they may not defile themselves; because their consecration to God is upon the head. <sup>8</sup>All their days as nazirites they are holy to the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:1-10

<sup>2</sup> Hannah prayed and said,

**"My heart exults in the LORD;**  
my strength is exalted in my God.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in my victory.

<sup>2</sup>**"There is no Holy One like the LORD,**  
no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup>Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

<sup>4</sup>The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble gird on strength.

<sup>5</sup>Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low, he also exalts.

<sup>8</sup>He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,  
and on them he has set the world.

<sup>9</sup>**"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,**  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;  
for not by might does one prevail.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;  
the Most High will thunder in heaven.  
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;

he will give strength to his king,  
**and exalt the power of his anointed.”**

Matthew 6:5-8

<sup>5</sup>“**And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites;** for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup>“**When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases** as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:9-14

<sup>9</sup>“**Pray then in this way:**

Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
 but rescue us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

Matthew 6:16-18

<sup>16</sup>“**And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites,** for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you,

they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Isaiah 58:3-8

<sup>3</sup>“**Why do we fast, but you do not see?**

**Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”**

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Joel 2:12-13

***Do Not Worry—Session 4***  
***March 27 and March 31***

Matthew 6:33

<sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Isaiah 41:8-13

<sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, my servant,  
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
 the offspring of Abraham, my friend;  
<sup>9</sup> you whom I took from the ends of the earth,  
 and called from its farthest corners,  
**saying to you, “You are my servant,  
 I have chosen you and not cast you off”;**  
<sup>10</sup> do not fear, for I am with you,  
 do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
 I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
 I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.  
<sup>11</sup> Yes, all who are incensed against you  
 shall be ashamed and disgraced;  
 those who strive against you  
 shall be as nothing and shall perish.  
<sup>12</sup> You shall seek those who contend with you,  
 but you shall not find them;  
 those who war against you  
 shall be as nothing at all.  
<sup>13</sup> For I, the LORD your God,  
 hold your right hand;  
**it is I who say to you, “Do not fear,  
 I will help you.”**

Isaiah 53:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup> Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
 he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalms 22:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
**you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.**

<sup>10</sup> On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

Psalms 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn to the LORD;

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the LORD,

and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Matthew 16:21-23

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

<sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Luke 9:51-56

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>Then they went on to another village.

Luke 18:31-34

<sup>31</sup>Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets

will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup>For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. <sup>33</sup>After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." <sup>34</sup>But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

John 12:27-33

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Luke 22:39-46

<sup>39</sup>He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial" <sup>41</sup>Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup>"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." <sup>43</sup>Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup>In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup>and he said

to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Isaiah 41:10

<sup>10</sup>do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Luke 23:46

<sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Matthew 6:25-34

<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup>"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Luke 12:22-24

<sup>22</sup> He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup>"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 10:38-42

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him

into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who **sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.** <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many **tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me."** <sup>41</sup>But the Lord **answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."**

John 10:17-18

<sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my **Father."**

John 10:27-30

<sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all **else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.** <sup>30</sup>**The Father and I are one."**

John 6:35-40

<sup>35</sup>**Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.** <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;

<sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have **eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."**

1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Romans 8:31-39

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>**Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.** <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will

## *Judge Not—Session 5—April 3 and 7*

Matthew 7:1

Judging Others

7 **“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.**

Romans 1:28-32

<sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. <sup>29</sup>They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, <sup>31</sup>foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>**They know God’s decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them.**

Romans 2:1-11

2 Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. <sup>2</sup>You say,<sup>[a]</sup> **“We know that God’s judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.”** <sup>3</sup>Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? **Do you not realize that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** <sup>5</sup>But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for **yourself on the day of wrath, when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.** <sup>6</sup>For he will repay accord-

ing to each one’s deeds: <sup>7</sup>to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; <sup>8</sup>while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. <sup>9</sup>There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, <sup>10</sup>but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. <sup>11</sup>For God shows no partiality.

James 2:8-13

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one **who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.** <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Psalms 51

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliver-  
ance.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not  
be pleased.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not  
despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

<sup>19</sup> then you will delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Romans 8:1-4

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those  
who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of  
life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of  
sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law,  
weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his  
own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal  
with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the  
just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us,  
who walk not according to the flesh but according to  
the Spirit.

Isaiah 11:1-4

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the  
wicked.

Psalms 96:10-13

<sup>10</sup> **Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!**

The world is firmly established; it shall never be  
moved.

**He will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it.  
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup> before the LORD; for he is coming,  
 for he is coming to judge the earth.  
 He will judge the world with righteousness,  
 and the peoples with his truth.

John 5:21-24

<sup>21</sup> Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. <sup>22</sup> The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Revelation 20:11-15

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; <sup>15</sup> and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Matthew 7:1-5

<sup>7</sup> **“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.** <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup> **Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s<sup>a</sup> eye,** but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your neighbor,<sup>b</sup> **‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye?** <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of **your neighbor’s<sup>a</sup> eye.**

Romans 2:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. <sup>2</sup> You say,<sup>a</sup> **“We know that God’s judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.”**

Romans 14:1-12

<sup>14</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the

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Matthew 7:25

<sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> **“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”**

James 1:22-25

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

Matthew 16:13-20

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”** <sup>14</sup> And they said, **“Some**

say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”** <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, **“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”** <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

1 John 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour.

<sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. <sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. <sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. <sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the

Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

Matthew 21:33-46

<sup>33</sup> **“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner** who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

<sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, **saying, ‘They will respect my son.’** <sup>38</sup> But when the **tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’** <sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> **They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”**

<sup>42</sup> **Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:**

**‘The stone that the builders rejected**

has become the cornerstone;

**this was the Lord’s doing,**

**and it is amazing in our eyes’?**

<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it **will crush anyone on whom it falls.”**

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Isaiah 5:1-7

The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

5 Let me sing for my beloved

my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard

on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones,

and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it,

and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,

but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem

and people of Judah,

judge between me

and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard

that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,

why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you

what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,

and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,

and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste;

it shall not be pruned or hoed,

and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

Psalm 118:22-23

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

Acts 4:10-12

<sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people  
of Israel, that this man is standing before you in  
good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,  
whom you crucified, whom God raised from the  
dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

**'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'**

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no  
other name under heaven given among mortals by  
**which we must be saved."**

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

<sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God given to me, like a  
skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and some-  
one else is building on it. Each builder must choose  
with care how to build on it. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay any  
foundation other than the one that has been laid;

that foundation is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone  
builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious  
stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup>the work of each build-  
er will become visible, for the Day will disclose it,  
because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will  
test what sort of work each has done. <sup>14</sup>If what has  
been built on the foundation survives, the builder  
will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If the work is burned up, the  
builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but  
only as through fire.

Corinthians 10:1-13

<sup>10</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and  
sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud,  
and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were bap-  
tized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all  
ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same  
spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock  
that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

<sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of  
them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so  
that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not  
become idolaters as some of them did; as it is writ-  
**ten, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they  
rose up to play."** <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual im-  
morality as some of them did, and twenty-three  
thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put  
Christ[ to the test, as some of them did, and were  
destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as  
some of them did, and were destroyed by the de-  
stroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as  
an example, and they were written down to instruct  
us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if  
you think you are standing, watch out that you do  
not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not

common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Exodus 17:5-6

<sup>5</sup>The LORD **said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people,** and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come **out of it, so that the people may drink."** **Moses did so,** in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Ephesians 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup>So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by **birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"**—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

<sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near;

<sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

1 Peter 2:1-10

<sup>2</sup>Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by **mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and**

<sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

**"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,**

a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him **will not be put to shame."**

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

**"The stone that the builders rejected**

**has become the very head of the corner,"**

<sup>8</sup>and

**"A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."**

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy **nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of**

