

**SERIES: J-WALKING**  
**PART THREE, Invited and Challenged**  
**Matthew 5:1-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

Jesus came to fulfill the old and introduce new. The Old Covenant revealed God's purpose for the people of Israel, the outcome of which was to show God's promise of love. The New Covenant is the full expression of that love for the entire world.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Reread Matthew 5:1-11. What do you notice about the Beatitudes this time? What stands out to you? What new thing did you hear? What did you hear more clearly this time because of something Claire shared in her message?
2. Which Beatitude do you relate to most? Least?
3. Where in your life do you need God's blessing?
4. Where in your life is God Challenging you?
5. Watch the modern-day beatitude (Or read a full script on the next page). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctcjNcRgyT8> or search Beatitudes Nadia Boltz-Weber on Youtube. It is a film by Makers in their "Have a little Faith" series. What make this is list hard to hear? What beatitude on this list to you relate to?
6. Why would Jesus bless his disciple as his first act of public ministry?

From <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/nadiabolzweber/2014/11/some-modern-beatitudes-a-sermon-for-all-saints-sunday/>

## SOME MODERN BEATITUDES – A SERMON FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 6, 2014 BY NADIA BOLZ WEBER

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the agnostics. Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren't sure, who can still be surprised. Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished and therefore not so certain about everything that they no longer take in new information. Blessed are those who have nothing to offer. Blessed are they for whom nothing seems to be working. Blessed are the pre-schoolers who cut in line at communion. Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction. Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears are as real as an ocean. Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like. Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried. Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted any more. Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else. Blessed are the motherless, the alone, the ones from whom so much has been taken. Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet" Blessed are they who laughed again when for so long they thought they never would. Blessed are Bo's wife and kids and Billy's mom and Amy Mac's friends. Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex-workers and the night shift street sweepers. Blessed are the losers and the babies and the parts of ourselves that are so small. The parts of ourselves that don't want to make eye contact with a world that only loves the winners. Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted. Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented. Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard – for they are those with whom Jesus chose to surround himself. Blessed are those without documentation. Blessed are the ones without lobbyists. Blessed are foster kids and trophy kids and special ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved and never does. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are they who know there has to be more than this. Because they are right.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people. Blessed are the burnt-out social workers and the over worked teachers and the pro-bono case takers. Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak. Blessed are they who delete hateful, homophobic comments off their friend's Facebook page. Blessed are the ones who have received such real grace that they are no longer in the position of ever deciding who the "deserving poor[2]" are. Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it. Blessed are the merciful for they totally get it.