

November 18 | Sunday

The Hour That Changes Everything: Living the Change

Read [2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3](#) / [Psalm 16](#)



19 | Mon – Starting at the bottom | Read [Matthew 5:3-4](#)

Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount* begins with the Beatitudes (*be attitudes*). He teaches 8 attitudes which lay the foundation for a changed life and could be considered progressive, with one step leading to the next. The first one, admitting you are *poor in spirit*, is another way of saying you need help, that you cannot be the person you want to be without divine intervention. Have you ever taken an honest look at yourself and felt deep sorrow for the wrong things in your life? If you haven't yet, please do. This is where real change begins.

20 | Tue – The pursuit of God | Read [Matthew 5:5-6](#)

Recognizing spiritual poverty and mourning for the ways you have rejected God in favor of self-centered living can be very humbling. Jesus called this *meekness*, the quality of being humble and teachable. This is the prerequisite for the next step of becoming so hungry for God that the pursuit of knowing Him becomes as important to you as food and water. Jesus promised you would be filled. How hungry and thirsty are you to know God?

21 | Wed – Mercy reigns | Read [Matthew 5:7](#)

Admitting poverty, with godly sorrow, being humble and having a strong desire for change affects the way you see other people. Knowing how much you are loved, in spite of how flawed you are, will help you act more merciful and less judgmental toward others. How can you withhold mercy from others, who don't 'deserve' it, when God has shown you such great mercy? Unforgiveness is a big roadblock that keeps you from moving forward.

22 | Thu – A rare quality | Read [Matthew 5:8](#)

Pure in heart has to do with motives. Too often human beings do good things but have a hidden agenda, looking for personal benefit. Jesus calls you to do the right thing for the right reason. As you grow to be more like him, you will find yourself doing good, solely for the joy of helping others. You want to pass along the blessings you have received. What could you do today to bless another person? Maybe even anonymously?

23 | Fri – A keeper or a maker? | Read [Matthew 5:9](#)

What is a peacemaker? Is it the same as being a peacekeeper? In a fight or argument, the *peacekeeper* wants to make everybody happy so the conflict will go away. In reality, the issue is often pushed underground to blow up another time or place. By contrast, a *peacemaker* is interested in helping two parties acknowledge and resolve their differences in a respectful way. [And a peacemaker's most important task is to help estranged people reconcile with God, by accurately representing His love and character.] Which are you? Why do you think so?

24 | Sat – True maturity | Read [Matthew 5:10-11](#)

Have you ever been misunderstood or treated badly for doing something good? Then you are truly blessed, or at least that is what Jesus said. It is easy to do good things when people see and pat you on the back. But it is more challenging to do the right thing when co-workers or acquaintances mock or even get angry with you - perhaps because they feel guilty? It takes maturity to live God's way when there is resistance. How committed are you?