

# IMAGINE

redemption

I Can Only Imagine Series  
Matthew 5:1 – 12 (NIV)

Rev. Abi Foerster  
April 28, 2024

---

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5: 1- 2)*

**When we place our \_\_\_\_\_ in anything other than Jesus, we are in need of redemption.**

1. The word BEATITUDE means \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. A blessing is not something we can produce ourselves. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God -- a state of living our lives that is reflected in the process of sanctification.
- **WE ARE BLESSED IN THE EYES OF GOD BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS AND ARE LEARNING TO FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS!**

**The question then for us to consider is this:** When we measure our lives alongside Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes, do our lives reflect the 7 trail markers given by him on the journey toward redemption?

## The Journey towards Redemption...

Trail Marker #1: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” (v. 3)

Trail Marker #2: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are those who **mourn** for they will be comforted.” (v. 4)

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18)

Trail Marker #3: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth.” (v. 5)

Trail Marker #4: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.” (v. 6)

Trail Marker #5: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.” (v. 7)

Trail Marker #6: \_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.” (v. 8)

Trail Marker #7: \_\_\_\_\_

Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.” (v. 9 – 11)

THE MAIN POINT:

### THE BEATITUDES SERVE AS IMPORTANT TRAIL MARKERS ON OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS REDEMPTION.

“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” 1 Corinthians 1:27



**Doggy Bag:** Something to Chew On and Ponder This Week.

1. Can you think of a favorite movie, novel, or other story that has a redemption storyline in it? Bring to mind what was set free, given a second chance, or restored to new life.
2. Read Luke 4:16 -21. In this passage, Jesus says that he came to set prisoners free. Do you consider yourself a prisoner? What reminds you or makes you forget?
3. How would you describe redemption in your own words? When have you had a redeeming moment in your life?
4. What would it look like to live in Christ’s freedom? How would your life be different? How might your own journey of redemption encourage and challenge others?