



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 1, 2026

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Matthew 5:1-12a

Beatitude People

Source: Connections; January 29, 2023

When Jesus saw the folks gathering in the church hall, he invited them to pull up chairs and have a seat. When everyone was settled and comfortable, Jesus took a chair himself and began to teach:

“Blessed are they who place the love of family and friends before all else, who possess a spirit of gratitude that compels them to give of their own blessings to others — for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are they who grieve, who struggle to cope but continue to hope: the single mom or dad trying to raise their children alone, the parents who wait for the lost daughter or son to return — for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are they who find their joy in the happiness of others: the young couple just starting out, the devoted teacher, the dedicated nurse or doctor — for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are they who can see beyond their own interests and agendas to the greater common good, who understand and honor their ethical and social responsibility to their community — for they will be filled.

“Blessed are they who treat classmates, coworkers and employees with respect and dignity; who never forget what it was like to struggle to raise a family, to be the “new kid,” to start a new job; who keep in mind the many times they’ve been forgiven and

received a second and third chance that they didn’t deserve — for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are they who seek justice for the poor and the abused, who speak up for the victimized and powerless, who refuse to compromise in matters of justice and truth — for they will see God.

“Blessed are they who possess the rare gift for bringing people together, who possess the humility to make the first move to forgive and enable reconciliation to take place; who bring healing to those who have been hurt, ignored, or rejected — for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are they who are ridiculed and criticized for doing what is just and good, who refuse to give into the cynicism around them, who will not rationalize injustice and justify falsehoods in their country — for the reign of God is theirs.

“Rejoice and be glad” Jesus told the group that had met that night in the church hall, “for your reward in heaven will be great.”

May we be “Beatitude” people and be encouraged by those men and women who are.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word