

Summer Reading 2026
“Part 4 – Becoming Like Jesus”
August 9, 2026
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[1] Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: [3] “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [4] “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [5] “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [6] “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. [7] “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. [8] “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [9] “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12 ESV

1) Jesus’ vision for His Kingdom begins in THE HEARTS of His followers. (Matthew 5:1-3)

[10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 ESV

[11] For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 14:11 ESV

2) Jesus reshapes how we walk through SORROW AND POWER. (Matthew 5:4-5)

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. [5] For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ESV

3) Jesus creates a new HUNGER for righteousness and new BLESSINGS in our relationships. (Matthew 5:6-9)

[13] For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13 ESV

[18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ESV

4) Jesus reframes PERSECUTION AND REWARD for the believer. (Matthew 5:10-12)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

2 Timothy 3:12 ESV

5) For the Beatitudes to take root in us we need to pursue DEEP HEART CHANGE.