



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*January 26, 2025*

*“A Framework for Discipleship”*

**Two Pieces of Scripture as Guideposts:** The teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5:1–12, the Beatitudes, and Matthew 25:31–46, the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, are an explanation and clear guide on what it means to live as followers of Christ. Christians from every denomination are united by a common call: to follow Jesus faithfully, grow in His likeness, and share His love with the world. These passages offer a roadmap for aligning our lives with God’s Kingdom.

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” – from the Beatitudes*

The Beatitudes give us the “what” of Christian living. They describe the attitudes and values that define a life rooted in God’s will—humility, mercy, purity of heart, a hunger for righteousness, and peace-making. These qualities shape our character, helping us become more like Christ in our thoughts and intentions.

*“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” – from the parable of the Sheep and Goats*

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats provides the “how.” It shows us how to live out these values through practical actions—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and visiting those in need. Together, these passages challenge us to both embody the heart of Christ and express that heart through service.



While giving us a framework for living a Christian life, they also guide us in spreading the Good News. By embodying the values of the Beatitudes and demonstrating love through action, we reflect Christ to the world. This witness, expressed in both word and deed, invites others to experience the hope and grace of the gospel. This framework is both a call to personal discipleship and a blueprint for sharing the good news with a world that longs for God’s love.

I have been wanting to take this topic and these scriptures on as a personal project for a long time. I will be digging deeper into the message contained in these two important Gospel messages, and that will be the basis for upcoming Sunday Blasts and sermons. As we journey together, please feel free to send me your comments and questions! – God’s Peace, Vance

**Prayer box:** let us pray for the souls of James, Bill C. and George N. and all those who grieve, especially Susan, Eric, Margo, Carol, and Gina; pray for those affected by wildfires in California and extreme weather in southern US; pray for healing for Connie, Diane M., Patti, Holland, Steve, John H., Debbie, Berenda, and Maggie. Lord, hear our prayers!