



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

February 2, 2025

"A Foundation: What the Beatitudes Tell Us"

The "What" - the Beatitudes: In a world that often measures success by power, wealth, and status, the Beatitudes turn this upside down. They describe a new kind of life—a blessed life—that flows from humility, mercy, and righteousness. The Beatitudes are a guide into a Christian life. As such, we become a light that shines into the world, drawing others to Jesus. And remember: whether we like it or not, people of little or no faith watch our behavior carefully.

In this week's Sunday Blast, we'll explore how the Beatitudes begin to shape our hearts to receive God's word, to understand God's mission, and prepare us to live as His ambassadors. If we want to become like Christ and reach people for Christ, we must first embody the character of Christ. Let's start with the first Beatitude and see where it leads us.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." – Matthew 5:3

The first Beatitude lays the foundation for everything else. This first Beatitude calls us to recognize our deep need for God. To be "poor in spirit" means to acknowledge that we are spiritually bankrupt apart from Him, unable to save ourselves by our own strength, wisdom, or righteousness. This humility shifts our focus away from self-reliance and toward complete dependence on God's grace.

It changes the way we see ourselves, how we see others, and how we see our relationship with God. Instead of pride, we develop gratitude. Instead of self-sufficiency, we cultivate faith. Instead of seeking status or control, we learn to trust in God's provision. This shift in heart posture allows us to enter God's Kingdom—not because we earned it, but as those who receive it as a gift.



It also transforms how we interact with others, fostering compassion, mercy, and a willingness to serve. When we embrace spiritual poverty, we become open vessels for God's love, ready to extend that same love to the world. True joy and blessing come not from what we possess but from surrendering everything to God and allowing Him to fill our lives with His presence.

So the first Beatitude is our first step: We must empty ourselves of pride and rely fully on the Holy Spirit. We must meet people where they are, not from a position of superiority, but with the same grace that God has shown us.

– God's Peace, Vance

Prayer box: let us pray for the souls of James, Bill C. and George N. Let us pray for all who mourn. Let us pray for those affected by wildfires in California and extreme weather in southern US. Let us pray for healing for Connie, Diane M., Patti, Holland, Steve, John H., Debbie, Brenda, and Maggie. Lord, hear our prayers!