

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 6, 2021

### ***“Ruth Didn’t Know!”***

By Jarrod Jacobs

I am sure most Bible students are familiar with Ruth, the Moabitess who was widowed but followed her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem to live. Once there, she met and married Naomi’s kinsman, Boaz. To their union came Obed, and in time she became the great-grandmother of David.

It is easy for us, having read the story, to focus upon Ruth being David’s great-grandmother and all that this would imply in God’s plan for man’s salvation. In fact, Ruth is one of only four women mentioned in the earthly lineage of Christ (Matt. 1:5).

**W**hat makes this good lady stand out in my mind was her conscientious, considerate, and sacrificing attitude. Unlike us, who have the benefit of reading the book, ***Ruth didn’t know what the outcome of her life would be!*** Still, she displayed an attitude that continues to shine for future generations. Like Abel, she *“being dead yet speaketh”* (cf. Heb. 11:4)!

The first time we read anything of substance about Ruth is after she had become a widow. When Naomi wanted to go back to Bethlehem, Ruth begged to accompany her mother-in-law (v. 7-18) when all that was promised to her was a life of poverty, living among strangers, speaking a foreign language, worshiping a foreign god, and no promise of ever returning to Moab. (So far as the book of Ruth is concerned, she never returned to see her family.)

Such faithfulness to a mother-in-law tells me just what kind of woman Naomi was and how she conducted herself among her daughters-in-law during her years in Moab!

Yet, our thoughts right now are focused upon Ruth. Such people as Ruth stand out and serve as good examples for the rest of us (Rom. 15:4). Just as she faced hardships and unknown elements in her life, so also it happens today. Isn’t this the real challenge of being faithful to God? It is easy to be faithful to God when things are going well, and we are not facing the pitfalls, challenges, temptations, and hard choices in life. It is much more complex when we are in the middle of enduring temptations, hardships, and challenges! It is at this time we need to remember Ruth’s example of faithfulness.

We would do well also to remember the words of Ruth’s great-grandson: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me”* (Ps. 23:4)!

While married and then widowed in Moab, while following a mother-in-law to a strange land, Ruth didn’t know how her life would go. In like manner, we don’t know how our life will turn out (Prov. 27:1), but choosing to be faithful to God through it all brings true blessedness. (Rev. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58; I Cor. 16:13-14; Matt. 24:13).



# “What Children Need To Learn In The Beatitudes”

Jarrod M. Jacobs

Perhaps we have not considered this, but it is true that our children can learn much from the Beatitudes that Christ taught in Matthew 5:3-12. These words are not just for the “adults,” but our children’s lives will be bettered if we teach them what is in this passage so that they will grow up *“in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4).

In context, these characteristics are to be seen in the citizens of the Lord’s kingdom. When reading the Beatitudes (below), we see that these are not to be single attributes in nine different people, but characteristics of every person as they move from a lost state to a saved one in God’s kingdom.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”* (Matt. 5:3-12).

When considering the numerous applications of these characteristics, it is evident that not only can adults learn from this text, but also our children can learn much from what the Lord taught 2000 years ago. Let us take some time to consider what we as parents can teach our children about life in the Beatitudes.

## ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v. 3).***

Parents, teach your children to continue to be humble. Initially, children have a natural humility about them, but this soon fades with age. Teach them the wisdom of continuing to have a humble attitude and not to be arrogant (I Pet. 5:7; Prov. 6:17, 16:18).

## ***“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted” (v. 4).***

Teach your children the difference between being sorry that you sinned and sorry that you got caught (II Cor. 7:10). There is a difference! If you are not sure, just study the differences between Judas and Peter after they sinned (Matt. 26:73-75, 27:3-5)! Study the reaction of Saul/Paul after his repentance in Acts 9!

## ***“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (v. 5).***

Meekness speaks to one’s submission and attitude toward obedience. Children need to be taught to obey God first (Matt. 6:33, 22:37), as well as obey authorities like parents (Eph. 6:1-3), elders (Heb. 13:17), preachers, police, etc. May our children never be like the little girl who was scolded and told to sit down, and finally told her mother: “I’ll sit down, but in my mind, I’m standing up!” Be meek like Moses (Num. 12:3)! Be meek like Jesus (Heb. 10:9)!

## ***“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (v. 6).***

Let us teach our children to love the word of God and love to hear it read, preached, and studied (Rev. 1:3). This is food for the souls of children, just as it is food for adults (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:14)! Let us encourage our children to be like Job, who considered God’s word more important than his *“necessary food”* (Job 23:21). Let them be like David, who found God’s word *“sweeter than honey”* (Ps. 119:103, 19:10)!

## ***“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (v. 7).***

A forgiving attitude must be present with us. Just as the trait of humility, when young, children are very forgiving. Have we ever seen little children on the playground? They might fight about something for a moment, but give them a few minutes, and they make up and are best friends once more!

Sadly, for some reason, many children “grow out” of that. Let us teach our children to forgive as God has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32). Let us forgive as Christ forgave (Col. 3:13), and always show mercy to others (Matt. 6:12).

## ***“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (v. 8).***

Purity is a trait of a child. Encourage your children to continue to have purity of heart, soul, and body. A pure heart motivates us to live pure lives (Phil. 4:8). The wisdom *“from above is first pure”* (Jas. 3:17)! Let us encourage this purity in our children! How does this purity come? The Bible teaches that it comes by *“obeying the truth”* (I Pet. 1:22)! We cannot have it any other way!

## ***“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (v. 9).***

There is a need for peace! How often do we crave peace in our homes, at work, in our community, and our nation? While this is desirable, the peace in this text is not that sort, but peace between God and us! Our children need to learn that peace between them and God is the greatest peace that can be known (Phil. 4:6-7). They need to first strive for peace between themselves and God. Sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2) and makes us His enemy.

Though we understand that small children are not in sin (Ezek. 18:20), when someone reaches an age in which they can choose right from wrong and decides to do what is wrong, this person has sinned (Jas. 1:14-15). In such a condition, the child is an enemy of the Lord but can be reconciled through the gospel plan of salvation (II Cor. 5:17-20; Mk. 16:16). Therefore, we need to strive for peace between God and us first, and then peace between one another. Our children need to see that the Lord's way works every time it is tried!

***“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. ” (v. 10-12).***

Finally, remind your children that while your parents love you and are extremely thankful that you serve God, please make it clear to them that not everyone will have this attitude (Jn. 15:18-20). Some people will say mean things to you and not treat you fairly when they discover you are trying to obey God (Matt. 7:13-14). When this happens, remember Jesus suffered as well. Others might hurt you, but God never will. Your parents care and will teach you, but remember you must look to the Lord for your strength and courage. Do not trust in the words of men. Only trust in the words of God!

May these words encourage parents as we strive to train our children to follow the way that is right and cannot be wrong! Remember Proverbs 22:6!



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**Memory Verse of the Week:**

**John 15:12-13 (NKJB)**

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”



**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), The family of Keith Storment, and the Harris Family for Steve Switcher's passing.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Sam Johnson
<b>Preaching:</b>	Adam Harris
<b>Sermon #1:</b>	<i>"Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones"</i>
<b><u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u></b>	Fred Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
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**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

<b>Announcements:</b>	Fred Johnson
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Russell Briggs
	<i>1 Samuel 12:24</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Paul Busby
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Jerry Kenemur
<b>Assisting:</b>	— —
<b>Preaching:</b>	Adam Harris
<b>Sermon #2:</b>	<i>"For You"</i>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Tim Harris Sr.

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**June 9th:**

<b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>	Russell Briggs
	The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
	<i>(Next Lesson)</i>
<b>Invitation:</b>	Paul Busby
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Russell Briggs
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Paul Johnson