



Matthew 5:1-12 from NIV and The Message

When Jesus saw His ministry drawing huge crowds, He climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to Him, the committed, climbed with Him. Arriving at a quiet place, He sat down and taught His climbing companions. This is what He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope.

With less of you there is more of God and His rule.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you.

Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less.

That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

