

# Living Lent | Friday, March 29

Kenny Grant

## Blessed

Today's Reading: Matthew 5:1-10

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

**Matthew 5:3-10 ESV**

### **Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:**

Jesus gave His most definitive treatise on the kingdom of God in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Here he lays out the "Kingdom Constitution" and states in clear terms the qualities of its King, culture, and of its citizens.

The gospel of Matthew is the gospel of the kingdom and introduces us to Christ the King. The book begins in chapter one with the ancestry of the King, and the advent of the King at His birth in chapter two. In chapter three we are told of the announcement of the King by the Father at His baptism, while in chapter 4 we

have both the assault upon the king in the wilderness by Satan and the agents of the King as he chooses His earliest disciples. As we come to chapters five through seven we hear the address of the King. Christ the King begins His inaugural address with the wonderful grace and truth of a beautiful blessedness that's promised to faithful kingdom citizens.

The word blessed, as used by Jesus, means supreme happiness. Think about it; His very first words showed how otherworldly His kingdom was and is and challenged the conventional notions with the truth about true happiness and where the elusive jewel might be found. In

verses three through ten, we are essentially told that in the kingdom economy blessedness is found on the bottom end of the ladder and not the top. A place where none of us would naturally look. It's like all the price tags had been switched.

The King says in a few bold and beautiful words that blessedness is found in the character of the King Himself, and is promised to those who embrace Him and by the power of His life, live into these high traits of lowliness. There is a paradox and promise connected to them. They explain kingdom values, display kingdom virtue, and they are promised the kingdom vindication of Blessedness.

### **Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ:**

*Pastor Kenny Grant was raised in Brunswick, GA, and is a graduate of Glynn Academy. Joining the Marine Corps at 17, he quickly met a young Navy man who shared the Gospel. During this time, he received Christ and married his high school sweetheart. Today, Kenny and his wife, Shirley, have shared 43 years of marriage, raised 4 children, and are proud grandparents to 6 grandkids. Kenny reconnected with The Community Church of St. Simons Island as the Teaching Pastor in 2022 and he remains a vital member of that leadership team for the cause of Christ.*