

# The Greatest Sermon Ever

## Intro

Illustration – Commercial for a mega hardware store. As customers enter the store everything turns from black & white to technicolor and the music for “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” starts playing.  
- A metaphor for the kingdom of heaven

## Read Mt 5:3-10

Dallas Willard suggests that this is not a list of conditions we should aspire to in order to inherit the kingdom of heaven but rather Jesus’ recognition of the conditions we experience and his promise to meet our deepest needs.

Suggested Reading  
The Divine Conspiracy  
by Dallas Willard  
Chapter 4: “Who is Really Well Off? – The Beatitudes”

Just as Jesus recognizes our deepest needs we are to recognize the needs of others and share the promises of Jesus with them.

“By showing to others the presence of the kingdom in concrete details of our shared existence, we impact the lives and hearts of our hearers, not just their heads. And they won’t have to write it down to hold onto it.” - Dallas Willard

What places or situations do you enter into and find your life seems to be full of color?  
What places or situations make you feel trapped in a drab world?

Spend a few minutes talking about what it means to be each of the following: meek, righteous, merciful, and persecuted.

## Let Jesus Transform YOU!

Which of one of the following “Internal Conditions” do you personally identify with the most? Why?  
If you don’t identify with anything on this list, then describe a way in which you feel you don’t fit in with who the church seems to be.

Internal Condition	Promise
Poor in spirit	will inherit the kingdom of heaven
Those who mourn	will be comforted
Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness	will be filled
Merciful	will be shown mercy
Pure in the heart	will see God
Peacemakers	will be called the children of God
Those persecuted because of righteousness	will inherit the kingdom of heaven

Answer 2 of the following questions based on the condition you chose:

- In what ways are you experiencing the kingdom of heaven through the promise given?
- In what ways do you long for this promise to be a reality in your life?
- Is it difficult for you to receive this promise?
- What can you do to keep yourself in a posture of receiving this promise?

If you’ve identified with something not on this list then try to fill in the blanks:

Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ for they will \_\_\_\_\_.

## Let Jesus Transform OTHERS through You!

Which of these conditions do you hear and wish you could ease the suffering experienced by others?

(If you are having trouble choosing one, then ask these questions: Who would you regard as the most unfortunate around you? What in the news lately causes you to mourn or feel mercy or makes you long for peace?)

In what ways does the promise given inform you about how to respond?

## Pray Together!