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The Beatitudes: Jesus Spoke to Us

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Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I need to thank God for all that He has done in my life. I feel a personal debt to Him for giving His only begotten son for the salvation of my soul and for the souls of all who choose to believe in His son, Jesus. I want to thank Jesus for dying on the cross for me and for all humanity. I further need to thank Jesus for the gift of The Holy Spirit, which is God's presence with us each and every day. Finally, I would like to thank my mother, Rose, for her words of encouraging support for this project.

My Dear Fellow Christians:

Thank you for seeking to strengthen your relationship with God by purchasing this book of prayer passages. It was my hope that this book would be used to inspire Christians and non-Christians alike. Jesus REALLY did speak to us and you are urged to read *The Gospel according to Matthew* for yourself in order to hear His message directly. This is a call to action. But don't stop with *The Book of Matthew*, or even the *New Testament*; I believe that every Christian should read The Bible cover-to-cover at least once. Make it a daily habit to read scripture and to pray. I have faithfully shared in this book what Jesus' words mean to me. I believe that *The Holy Bible* is just as relevant today as it was nearly 2,000 years ago. Solutions to problems and general guidance on how to live your life today can be found in the pages of The Bible. When you don't know what to do or how to respond to a challenge from Life, then turn to Jesus. Remember that Jesus saves, God loves, and The Holy Spirit lives within you.

*Blessings be unto you,
Romella*

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From the Cross

Jesus

Jesus was a teacher, healer, and our salvation.

You are to focus on the Life of Jesus in order to find a solution to your problem.

Maybe you are being called to share your knowledge with someone who needs to learn. Maybe you need to help someone through a difficult time, helping that person heal. Or just maybe you are being asked to recommit your life to Jesus. The narrow gate through which we may enter into Heaven is Jesus, as the wide gate leads to destruction (Matt 7:13). Take the time now to read about the life of Jesus. Believe on Him and He will give you everlasting life, for Jesus is the bread, the way, and the Life (John 6:48-51).



On high

Sermon

This passage is about speaking to teach others about Christ and sharing lessons. Every single Christian has an obligation to share *The Good News*. Boldly testify about what God has done for you. Share His miracles with others so they may believe. Alternatively, this passage may be asking you to open your heart and listen to what someone is trying to share with you, hearing through The Spirit. We must listen without judgment (Matt 7:2), but provide solid instruction to others when it is essential to do so (Matt 7:6). Listen first, but speak out when necessary.



Could No. 9

Mount

This passage is about a metaphorical mount. We all have, at one point in our lives, set our eyes upon some mountain with plans to climb its heights, getting to its top and savoring the success. But is that mountain worth climbing in God's eyes? For example, we must strive for more than money because money does not equal everlasting success. By focusing on money and other status symbols, we cut ourselves off from God. We must each look within ourselves to see what it is that we *really* need in order to be happy in this life. We must set our eyes upon God and the treasures of Heaven (Matt 6:19-20), not on a mountain of money and things or empty accolades.



Olivo

Olives

This passage is about peace, the proverbial olive branch extended to those with whom we have been in conflict. The fruit of the branch is stillness before God; this passage asks you to forgive those who have hurt you and to move towards reconciliation. Instead of needing to absolve someone else, maybe you need to forgive yourself for something that you've done or should have done. Stop living in the past, give yourself the gift of forgiveness and move on with your life. When you go about making improvements in your life, do so not for pity nor for praise because we are not to fast (i.e., abstain from something) publicly. We are to put oil on our heads (Matt 6:17) and live our lives while we are silently working to become better people.



The Present

The Beatitudes

Each beatitude is a true blessing. In the fifth chapter of *The Gospel according to Matthew*, we were blessed to receive the teachings of Jesus. We were blessed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The Beatitudes provide us with instructions for how to live our lives and, if we are wise, we will follow His teachings. Also, you are being called to think about the ways in which you have been blessed by God and to show Him gratitude for those blessings. As plain Christians, we are to humbly acknowledge that we have received God's grace, as evidenced by Jesus' crucifixion for our redemption. Jesus has blessed you greatly!



All children like to play

Poverty

This passage is about being humble and showing humility. Matthew 5:3 advises us that the poor in spirit will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, so we are to show humility in all things. If you struggle with being humble, you may be experiencing spiritual poverty, which requires prayer for healing. This passage can also be a call to help those less fortunate than you. However, you must be mindful to serve in such a manner that the person you are helping feels uplifted and not as if you are giving him or her a handout or are offering the person your pity (Matt 6:2).



A single tear...

Mourn

We are taught in Matthew 5:4 that those who mourn are blessed because they will be comforted by God. If you have lost a loved one, this passage says that it is okay to allow yourself to grieve. Remember the best about your loved ones and be happy that they have been joyfully reunited with God in Heaven. This passage is about the natural cycle of Life; the end on Earth is the beginning in Heaven for Christians. God does not take anyone or anything from us that we still have need of. Although separations are very painful, holding on to the past will block your blessing because, if your hands are already full, God cannot hand you your next blessing. Do not be afraid of change.



The King's Chair

Meek

First, meek does NOT mean weak. Jesus was NO doormat. He audaciously stated that He came to overthrow the status quo (Luke 12:49-53). By tipping over the tables of the money changers, Jesus expressed anger at His Father's house being defiled (John 2:14-16). Instead, being meek means to trust in God and not ourselves (Zephaniah 3:12). Those who are meek will be blessed by God (Matt 5:5). This passage is simply a warning not to think more of ourselves than we should, for it is not our will, but His will that *will* prevail. Maybe you have become haughty, thinking that you've done it all yourself? Well, whatever "it" may be, you didn't achieve it on your own. Stop now and properly give thanks to God for all of your accomplishments and for all that you have. Similarly, you need to acknowledge and thank those special people that God placed in your life who have helped you along your path, whoever and wherever they may be.



Oasis

Satisfaction

Blessed are those who have a hunger and thirst for righteousness in all things, for they will be filled. (Matt 5:6). While we may momentarily be satisfied by a good meal or have our thirst quenched by a drink of water, feeding The Holy Spirit that resides in each of us is really the only way to be eternally satisfied. Seek positive things, situations, and people. Do not chase negativity to temporarily satisfy feelings of emptiness or loneliness. Instead, seek frequent communion with God through His word each and every day. Remember: God Loves You.



Mercy me, mercy you

Mercy

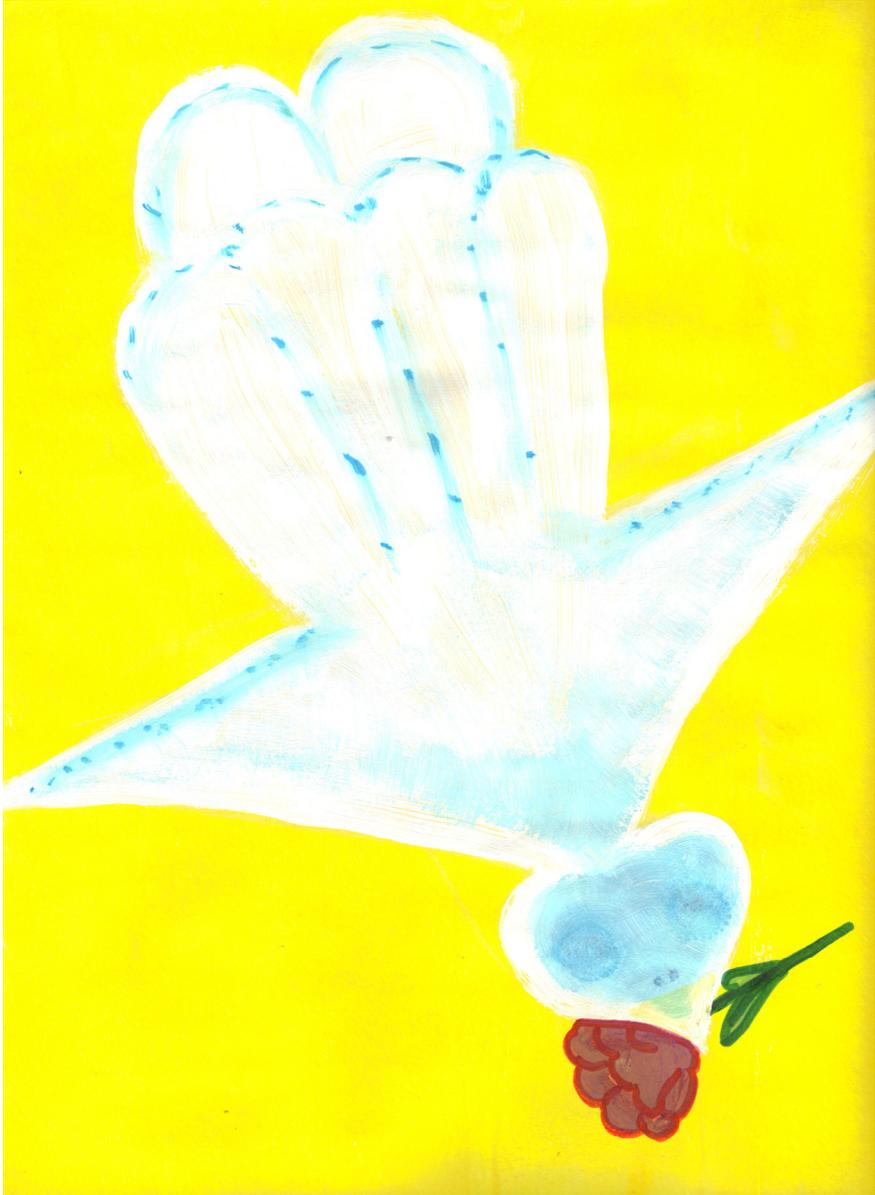
Forgive those who have wronged you, even if they haven't asked to be forgiven. Mercy is a gift to that person and a gift you give to yourself because forgiving those who are *guilty* of committing some trespass against you allows you to move past the hurt and pain. Blessed are those who show mercy to others, for they will receive God's mercy (Matt 5:7). This passage also says that you should forgive yourself for your shortcomings and past mistakes. No one is perfect. Mercy paves the way for healing.



Naturelle, the Bee and the Flower

Sincerity

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will be united in God (Matt 5:8). You are being asked to pray about your sincerity or the sincerity of someone around you. Do not harden your heart against this person (or persons) and be honest with yourself. Consider that it is enough to be sincere; you don't have to be perfect, as Jesus was and is. You cannot be. Just truly believe that Jesus died for your sins and God's perfect love will do the rest. Live an authentic life, with God as the center and God will never abandon you.



Swan Dive

Diplomacy

Blessed are those who seek peace, for they will be called children of God (Matt 5:9) and now, you are being called to act as a negotiator. Call upon God to help you serve as an intermediary and to soften the hearts of everyone involved in the situation, so that you can work together harmoniously to reach a successful resolution to the one tough problem (or to the many small problems) that have been dividing you. Remember to have the spirit of peace just as Jesus, who is our intermediary with God, does.



No-go

Integrity

It can be hard to do the right thing when we know that no one else cares, but remember: Blessed are those who are persecuted because they are trying to live in righteousness, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs (Matt 5:10). It often seems that nothing is sacred and no one has any integrity, but you must not sacrifice your principles just to get ahead or to be accepted by others. This passage reminds you to remain committed to the biblical principle of personal integrity. If someone abandons you because you refuse to abandon your integrity, know that you are better off without this person in your life. Remember that God alone is your judge and you must strive to live by His principles.



Descent into Light

Rejoice

Blessed are you when people insult you, harass you, and gossip viciously about you because you proclaim your Christian faith (Matt 5:11-12). Being gossiped about doesn't sound like a reason for rejoicing, but when people speak against you because you proudly proclaim your love for Christ, you have reason for joy. Paul suffered many, many horrible injustices in Jesus' name and Jesus, himself suffered on the cross for refusing to yield to the Pharisees and Sadducees. This passage is also about being happy in who you are. Rejoice in the gift that is your life. Because the past is dead and gone and tomorrow is not promised to anyone, so commit to enjoying today and every day. Be who you are all the time, living boldly for Christ.



For the table

Salt of the Earth

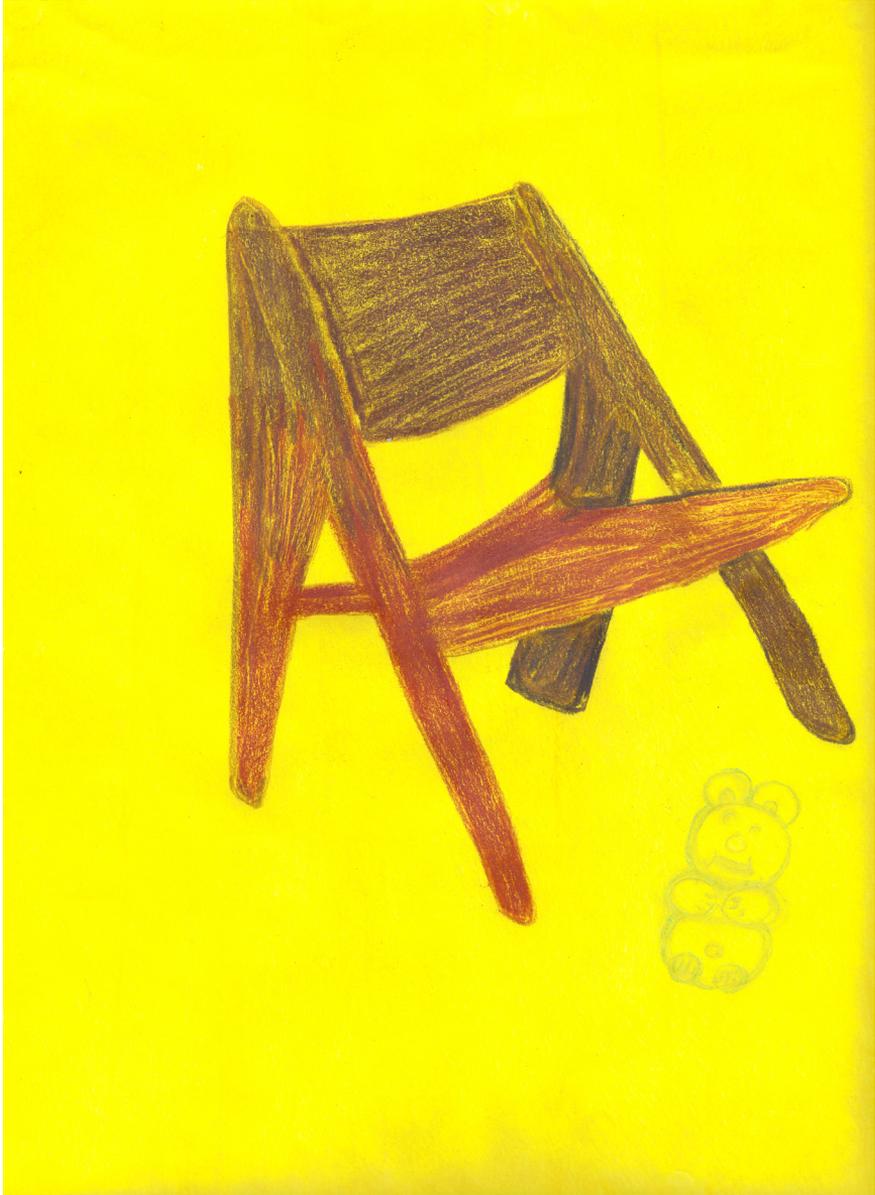
You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its flavor, how can it be made to taste salty again? The meaning of this question is clear: You are that salt and you must remain true to the will of God in order to be of service to Him. Or to say it another way, you are a light of hope in our world and you must let your light shine, so that your family, friends, coworkers, and others may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven (Matt 5:13-16). Don't give up.



Fulfilled on Empty

Law

Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. He said that anyone who breaks any of His commandments and teaches other people to do the same will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practices and teaches others to live in accordance to these commandments will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 5:17-20). Although we are to follow all of the commandments, we cannot be saved by the Law. Only by faith in Jesus, as the son of God, can we be saved. Bear in mind that you can never be perfect enough to be blameless and free from sin. Simply put, you need Jesus to be saved.



A bear alone

Anger

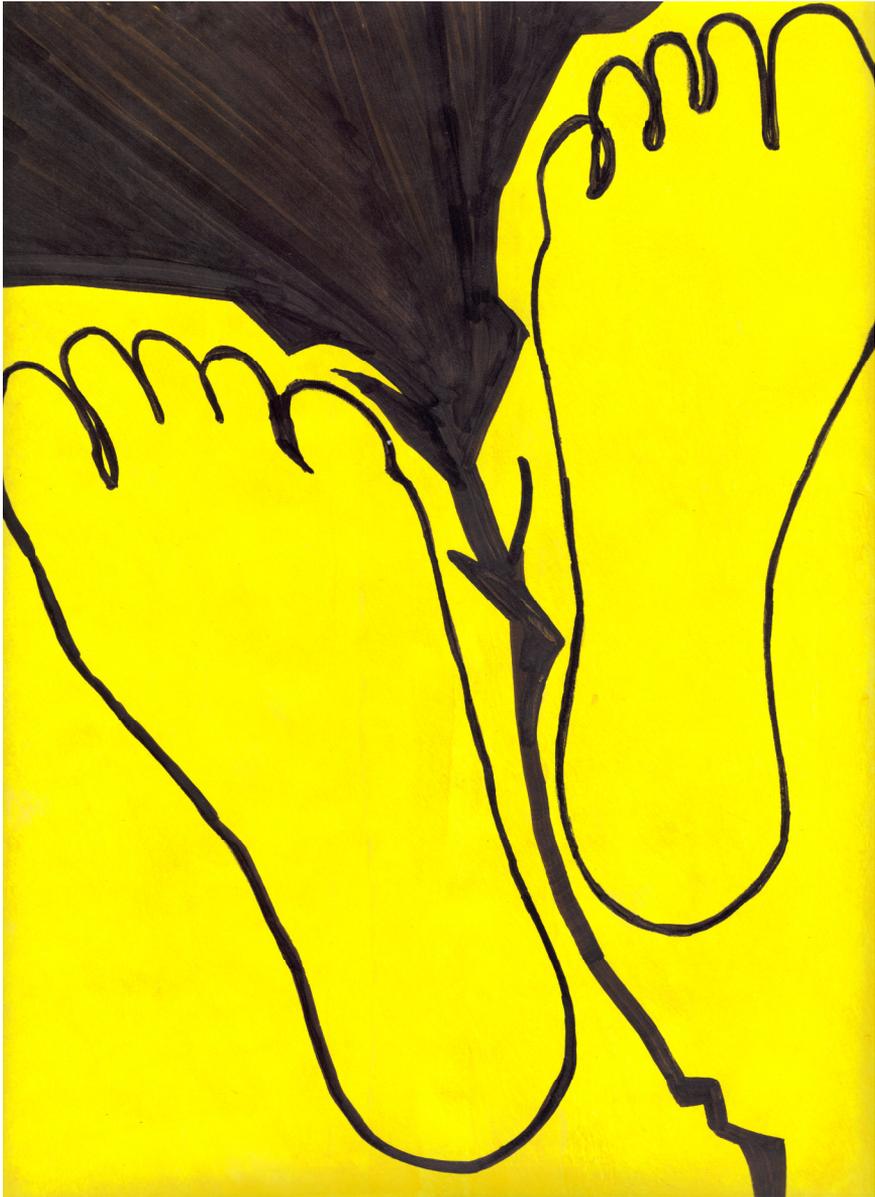
We have all heard the old adage about not going to bed angry, but we shouldn't be angry all day long either. Instead, if you have any disagreement with your real or proverbial brother, you should work to quickly resolve your differences and look for a mutually agreeable solution. If someone takes the life of another, that person is obviously subject to judgment, but Jesus said that those people who harbor anger are also subject to being judged. Jesus went so far as to say that you cannot ever truly be reconciled with God, if your brother has a legitimate grudge against you (Matt 5:21-24). Furthermore, if you are so set on being "right" you may lose everything that really matters (Matt 5:25-26). Don't pay your last penny, just to be right because your pride-filled anger kept you from solving a problem while it was still small.



The Follower

Faithfulness

Refraining from adultery is one of The Ten Commandments. The Bible counsels you to not commit adultery and you do not actually have to engage in sex with another person to be guilty of cheating. Jesus said that if a man merely looked lustfully at a woman, then that man has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matt 5:27-30). If you're in a relationship, it is not harmless to indulge in pornography or in sexual chats on the internet. It's cheating. Plain and simple. If you have challenges in this area, get help in dealing with it. Beyond being faithful to your partner, you are advised to be faithful to God. Give your relationship with God the regular time it requires to remain strong through fellowship and prayer. Don't cheat on God by worshiping material things or by forgetting to pray when you don't need Him. You always need God.



Different Paths

Divorce

Jesus felt strongly that divorce was not the natural order of man-woman affairs. After all, how can a man cut himself in half and still live? For Jesus, only marital unfaithfulness was a reason for divorcing (Matt 5:31-32). If you and your spouse are currently struggling, try to be understanding. Take a moment to consider what your loved one is thinking or feeling. Try to see your spouse as a good, but flawed person. If you're not facing a possible end of a marriage, this passage can also refer to any kind of separation. While separations are painful, some separations are necessary for growth. Also, some separations are only temporary. Whether the separation is only temporary or forever, please know that change sometimes requires us to leave behind the old in order to meet the new. Remember that Jesus was, for a time, physically separated from God; although He missed being with our Father greatly, that temporary separation ultimately made it possible for you and me to be reunited with God in Heaven.



Two

Oaths

The obvious message of this passage is about keeping your word. If you commit to doing something, you should do all that you can to live up to your obligation. However, Jesus said that it is not within our rights to make or take an oath because we cannot even turn a white hair on our heads black (Matt 5:33-37). If we are asked to do something, we are to honestly and realistically assess whether or not we can do it, giving a simple answer of “Yes” or “No”. This passage is really about letting go and letting God. We cannot control everything and it is vain of us to try. Let God order your steps and Jesus will carry you to the end.



Five

Senses

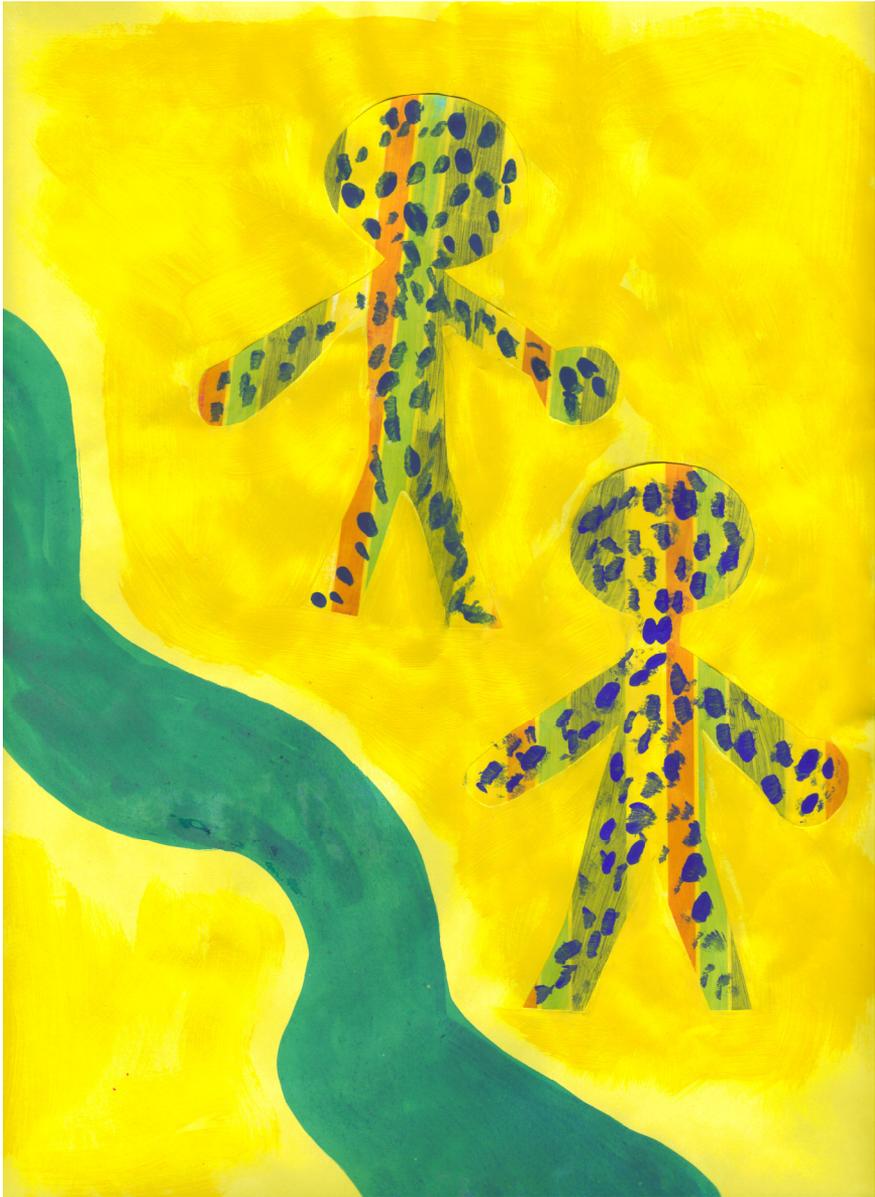
The message of this passage is about the senses, but not about the ability to see, hear, smell, taste, or feel. Instead it is about the feelings of pride and the desire for retribution. *An eye for eye, and a tooth for tooth.* Jesus said that you should not try to resist an “evil” person and to *turn the other cheek*. By this, He meant that we should not get involved with such people from the start (Matt 5:38-42). By being involved, I mean, emotionally. It is truly vitally important to your health and to the health of your soul that you avoid giving in to the desire to get even because your feelings have been hurt or your pride has been wounded. If a person you’ve trusted does you wrong, try to understand why; however, this does not mean that you should continue to allow yourself to be abused. Take care of yourself, while caring for others. Remember, you are precious to God.



Assorted Hearts

Love

It is easy to like and love those who are like us and who love us, but that isn't answering the call that Jesus gave us. I know that it sounds impossible and completely ridiculous, but we are to love our enemies just as much as we love ourselves (Matt 5:43-48). The message is that love can redeem us. Also, Jesus reminded us that God causes the sun to shine on both those who try to live according to His will and upon those who are currently wandering around in spiritual darkness. God's love for us is perfect and unconditional. The challenge for us is to strive to be perfect, as our Father in Heaven is perfect. Love is a small word, but it holds all of the secrets of the universe. Please don't forget that *God is Love* (1 John 4:16). Fully open your heart to receiving His universal love.



Walking with a Friend

Fellowship

At the beginning of Matthew 5, we learn that Jesus was moved when He saw the crowds of people, so He climbed up the mountainside and sat down to join them. He fellowshiped with them. And like Jesus, we are called upon to fellowship with other Christians. I know that it can be hard to find a good church if you've moved to a new town, but we must seek out other Christians for fellowship and worship. Fellowshiping with other Christians will help you stay committed to your relationship with God. We must be vigilant about the company we keep, being wise and not foolish builders, following the teachings of Jesus (Matt 7:26-27). Join a Bible-based church or form your own fellowship group to build strong Christian relationships and to fortify your faith.



Sharing Learning

Disciples

The disciples of Jesus came to Him to seek and find knowledge of God and He freely taught them (Matt 5:1-2). You are being called upon to mentor someone, but you must be careful to teach your “disciple” what is right in the eyes of the Lord and not your own. Remember that a tree is known by its fruit and that good trees produce good fruit (Matt 7:18). To be a good mentor, you must be a devoted disciple of the Lord yourself, seeking guidance in the word daily. Alternatively, this passage may very well be telling you that you are in need of discipleship; if you feel that you are lost, seeking *something*, then open yourself up to receive mentoring by engaging in Christian fellowship and God will put the right person or persons in your life to help you grow closer to Him. Believe in the Grace of God.



Time with God

Prayer

The purpose of this passage is to invite you to pray daily. By praying every single day, you strengthen your bond with God. Daily prayer also helps you manage your stress, for in prayer, you can give your worries to God. When you pray, you should also tell God what you are thankful for and praise Him. If you are unsure of how to pray, then follow Jesus' teaching of *The Lord's Prayer*, which begins in Matthew 6:9. Jesus said that we should not worry because we cannot add one single day to our lives by doing so (Matt 6:27). God already knows what you need, but you should feel free to ask, seek, and knock (Matt 7:7-8). If you already pray everyday, then God wants you to know that He hears your prayers. Believe that God will answer your prayers in His own time and in His own way. Keep on believing. Keep on praying.

