

## INTRO//

- Welcome
- Introduce Self
- Heart of the series
  - When Jesus walked among us, he brought with Him a way of life that was backwards from the cultural norms. His ways, His thoughts, His practices were, and still are today, upside down from how we typically tend to think. And we don't see more in any place like we do in Jesus's most famous message, the Sermon on the Mount.
- Recap week 1

## ILLUSTRATION// PLOT TWISTS

- When things are going one way and a new piece of information can **COMPLETELY** shift our understanding
- "Luke, I am your father." - Darth Vader
- Planet of the Apes
- King Candy Plot Twist (Wreck-it-Ralph)

## TENSION//

- Show of hands, how many of you recognize the **SERMON ON THE MOUNT**?
- One word that you'll see a lot especially at the beginning of the passage is...

## BLESSED

**BLESSED** - Happiness that comes from a deep, inward satisfaction rather than outward circumstances

- What does it actually look like to have a "blessed" or a "good" life?
  - Recap week 1

## BIBLE//

**MATTHEW 5:8-12**

“BLESSED are the merciful, For they will be shown mercy. BLESSED are the pure in heart, for they will see God. BLESSED are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

- Unlike the first time, most of these are not insanely upside down thoughts, right?
  - Those who are merciful SHOULD receive mercy, those who are peacemakers SHOULD be called children of God (all makes sense)
- So, the first four Beatitudes that we talked about in the first week were all about **RECOGNIZING MY NEED FOR A SAVIOR**

## CONNECT//

### JESUS IS INVITING US TO JOIN AS AMBASSADORS OF HIS UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

- As disciples of Jesus, we are representatives, co-laborers of the **RESTORATION** and **REVERSAL** work of God’s love for the world

“BLESSED are the merciful,  
For they will be shown mercy.

- Showing mercy to those who don’t deserve it rather than people getting what they deserve

BLESSED are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

- Rather than self-ambition or self-gain or self-satisfaction, it’s choosing **GOD’S WILL**
  - To put full priority and focus on God

BLESSED are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

- Those who make peace where peace can be made
  - Setting down my pride and choosing to make peace where I can
- Jesus says that those who are this way will be **BLESSED**
  - Nice and simple! Sounds great, right?

...Oh I wait...

...I skipped the last of the Beatitudes.

**BLESSED** are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**MATTHEW 5:11-12**

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**\*\*\*PLOT TWIST\*\*\***

...Maybe we just don't even need that one, right?

- This is one of those verses in scripture that can be hard to deal with!
  - I don't know about you, but when I read about that kind of person, they don't sound blessed
  - Name the last person you knew who said they were blessed because they were undergoing...
    - Scrutiny, hatred, threats, harassment, hostility, ill-treatment
- Here's the beauty of this last one though...
  - It reveals the **TRUE NATURE** of all the other beatitudes

**JESUS IS INVITING US TO BE CRUCIFIED WITH HIM**

*(CALL KEYS UP)*

- Jesus' love was so great that he died for people that were putting him on the cross!
  - He died for those who were hopeless, lost, evil, terrible, rebellious
- He took their sins on the cross because His love for them was too great!
  - No price was too high
- And plot twist - this is our story too

**ROMANS 5:8**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- The suffering, the agony, the heartbreak, the backstabbing from his friends
- But when he saw you, he said, “You are worth the cost.”
  - He saw past the broken pieces
  - He saw past the times we rebel and choose idols over him
  - He saw past the times we run to our sin instead of into his arms
- Yet he **STILL CHOSE US - HE STILL CHOSE YOU!**

## **WE ARE INVITED TO MAKE THE SAME SACRIFICE**

1 JOHN 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

- And this is why, even though it is backwards from our normal way of thinking, we will be **BLESSED** when we choose to live this way
  - And you may be persecuted because you are in **OPPOSITION** to the ways of the world
  - But **NO COST IS TOO GREAT**
- As we join with Jesus to be agents of his love in our schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, houses, **WE RECEIVE A DEEP FULFILLMENT THAT DOESN'T LEAVE US LONGING**
  - A happiness that comes from an inward satisfaction

## **CHALLENGE//**

- Salvation Call
- Go back into a worship song