

**JANUARY 27, 2019**

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Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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

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

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

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

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

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

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I don't use other folks' devotionals often, but when I do it's because I don't want to change a word to what they have written. Here is Frederick Buechner - a brilliant Reverend (even if he is Presbyterian!) This was originally published in Whistling in the Dark and later in Beyond Words:

“IF WE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW but were asked to guess the kind of people Jesus would pick out for special commendation, we might be tempted to guess one sort or another of spiritual heroes and women of impeccable credentials morally, spiritually, humanly, and every which way. If so, we would be wrong. Maybe those aren't the ones he picked out because he felt they didn't need the shot in the arm his commendation would give them. Maybe they're not the ones he picked out because he didn't happen to know any. Be that as it may, it's worth noting the ones he did pick out.

Not the spiritual giants, but the "poor in spirit;" as he called them, the ones who, spiritually speaking, have absolutely nothing to give and absolutely everything to receive, like the Prodigal telling his father "I am not worthy to be called thy son," only to discover for the first time all he had in having a father.

Not the champions of faith who can rejoice even in the midst of suffering, but the ones who mourn over their own suffering because they know that for the most part, they've brought it down on themselves, and over the suffering of others because that's just the way it makes them feel to be in the same room with them.

Not the strong ones, but the meek ones in the sense of the gentle ones, that is, the ones not like Caspar Milquetoast but like Charlie Chaplin, the little tramp who lets the world walk over him and yet, dapper and undaunted to the end, somehow makes the world more human in the process.

Not the ones who are righteous, but the ones who hope they will be someday and in the meantime are well aware that the distance they still have to go is even greater than the distance they've already come.

Not the winners of great victories over evil in the world, but the ones who, seeing it also in themselves every time they comb their hair in front of the bathroom mirror, are merciful when they find it in others and maybe that way win the greater victory.

Not the totally pure, but the "pure in heart;" to use Jesus' phrase, the ones who may be as shopworn and clay-footed as the next one but have somehow kept some inner freshness and innocence intact.

Not the ones who have necessarily found peace in its fullness, but the ones who, just for that reason, try to bring it about wherever and however they can-peace with their neighbors and God, peace with themselves.

Jesus saved for last the ones who side with heaven even when any fool can see it's the losing side and all you get for your pains is pain. Looking into the faces of his listeners, he speaks to them directly for the first time. "Blessed are you;" he says.

You can see them looking back at him. They're not what you'd call a high-class crowd-peasants and fisherfolk for the most part, on the shabby side, not all that bright. It doesn't look as if there's a hero among them. They have their jaws set. Their brows are furrowed with concentration.

They are blessed when they are worked over and cursed out on his account, he tells them. It is not his hard times to come but theirs he is concerned with, speaking out of his own meekness and mercy, the purity of his own heart."

Be blessed St. Paul's. Be very blessed. We love you as "muchly" and as "gooder" as we can.

Dave and Jana

# Church Announcements

The Leadership Table Meeting will be this Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Men's Breakfast is this Sunday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 am.

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> is Souper Bowl Sunday here at St Pauls! We are asking everyone to bring several cans of soup and place them on the Altar to be taken to Christian's Concerned.

A Fitbit watch was found by the restrooms in the hallway. Please contact the office if it's yours.

Have you seen our new online giving program? We're excited about the new things happening at Saint Paul's through our online community. You can securely give from our website at [spumcduncan.com](http://spumcduncan.com) and via text message by messaging "walkthetalk" to 73256. You can even set up recurring donations. If you need help with this just contact the office.

We now have a Calendar in the Copy Room for you to put upcoming Events/Church activities on and to see when the church is Reserved for special occasions. Thank you.

Men's Emmaus Walk will be Feb. 21-24. Women's Emmaus will be Feb 28-Mar.3.

For King and Country will be in Concert in Wichita Falls on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Contact the office if you are interested in going.





# SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

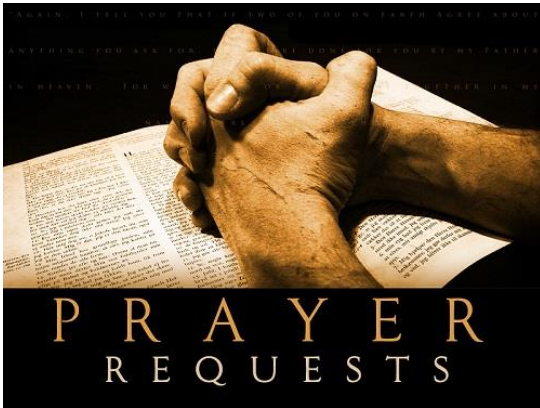


We are asking everyone to bring several cans of soup and place them on the Altar to be taken to Christian's Concerned.





Paula McConnell's auto immune disease is starting to get balanced out with proper meds.  
David Griffin is on the State Kairos Board  
Chili Cookoff  
David and Jana got new pillows per DHS



Billy Branch – Travel Mercies  
Stacy Mettler – Cancer – Surgery Complications  
Peace  
Ann Johnson  
Oleta Little – On Hospice. Brain Cancer returned  
Sherie Woodburn – travel mercies to Illinois  
Ross Pipkin – Basic Training  
Thomas – Recovering from Surgery  
Lorie DeBowka – Hoping to become a US Citizen

Dave and Margie Robertson

Marcia's circumstances dealing with health, surgery, housing and work

Jason Poorman – (Edith Suiters nephew) starting chemo for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Addie's friend and relative on Hospice. Peace in her Family

Kathy Allred – Continued prayers for healing

Trish Lister

Lisa Hill – loss of her mom

Jim and Edith Suiter – Jim is getting increasingly weary

Courtney - The Allred's 11 yr. old grandchild with neurological issues.

Karen Gibson – Cancer

Gary Gibson – Cancer

Jan Smith – Cancer

Jennifer Shahan – Heart Problems

Iva Johnson – Hospice

Addie McMurrin

Karen Stanfill – Cancer

Rebecca's cousin has eating disorder, liver failure and on transplant list

Kathy Bridges – Cancer

Joe Perry – Kidney cancer

Margaret Averre – Throat cancer

Daniel Whittney – Colon cancer; now liver cancer

Jennifer Allred – Spinal pain and fibromyalgia

Melinda Douglas – Lung Cancer