

This episode Features guests from our series:



Questions:

1. In what ways might those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn or those who are meek experience heaven? Have you had an experience of heaven or blessedness in a similar situation?
2. In what ways might those who hunger and thirst, those who are merciful or those who are pure in heart experience heaven? Have you had an experience of heaven or blessedness in a similar situation?
3. In what ways might peacemakers and those who are persecuted for righteousness experience heaven? Have you had an experience of heaven or blessedness in a similar situation? Where do you find heaven?

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EPISODE TITLE: "The Struggle"

Wholly Human, Holy Divine, Episode 3

Special Episode:

The Narrative Lectionary for this week focuses on the Beatitudes, so we decided to take a look back at our own series "The Beatitudes" from 2011. Hosts Rev. Chris Alexander and Rev. Dr. Eric, Elnes revisit our talks with guests Jeff Cook, Kimberly Knight, Robert V. Taylor, Jim Forest, Jared Littleton, Michael Dowd, Kit Evans, Audrey de Coursey and Anne Howard

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Matthew 5:1-20

⁵When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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