



"Blessed are you....Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:12

Blessed Are Our Hassles

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As much as we all might like a hassle-free life, for the person of faith the Beatitudes are markers of when God slips into our consciousness. They are life's doorways to a deepening sense of God-with-us.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit" is not about material poverty, though it may include such times. To be poor in spirit is to be dependent upon God because we have run out of our own self-sufficiencies. There is nowhere else to go.

"Blessed are they who mourn" is about times when we grieve the loss of someone or something we love deeply. Who or what will now sustain us?

"Blessed are the meek" is about giving up the need to have our own way all the time. It recognizes that sometimes God's way is breaking into what we prefer.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness," that is, for a relationship with God. It is ultimately a hunger for harmony.

"Blessed are the merciful" is about being forgiving and about those who live out the corporal works of mercy—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and the rest. In them we find the presence of God.

"Blessed are the clean of heart" is when we come to realize we cannot have it all. Then there is only one who will satisfy our longing.

"Blessed are the peacemakers" are those who not only love peace but work for peace, for God is peace.

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness." They live for an ultimate good greater than their own. ●

Reflect

*Which Beatitude would be a good title
for your autobiography?*

*Which Beatitude needs the greatest growth
in your life?*

