

*Today:*  
**February 1, 2015**

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 5 - 7

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

<sup>3</sup> “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble,  
for they will inherit the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,  
for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.<sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

*(Matthew 5;1-12; 7:28-29, New Living Translation)*

**Notes from Worship:**

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

**Questions for Discussion:**

- Which of Jesus’ teaching styles (instruction, example, etc.) do you learn best from?
- How have Jesus’ teachings impacted your life?
- How would you like to be more intentional about sharing Jesus’ teachings with others?

# *This Week:* **February 2-7**

## **Scripture Readings:**

<b>Monday</b> 2/2	<b>Tuesday</b> 2/3	<b>Wednesday</b> 2/4	<b>Thursday</b> 2/5	<b>Friday</b> 2/6	<b>Saturday</b> 2/7
Proverbs 21-24	1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chron. 2-3	1 Kings 7-8; Psalm 11	2 Chron. 4-7; Psalms 134, 136	Psalms 146-150	1 Kings 9; 2 Chron. 8; Proverbs 25-26

## **Questions for Reflection:**

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

### **Monday**

Which of the thirty sayings of the wise (Proverbs 22:17- 24:22) do you resonate with the most? Why?

### **Tuesday**

What is the significance of King Solomon conscripting laborers from Israel? (1 Kings 5:13; 2 Chronicles 2:2)

### **Wednesday**

What strikes you about the construction of the Temple? (1 Kings 5-7)

### **Thursday**

What is the significance of bringing the Ark to the Temple? (2 Chron. 5, 1 Kings 8)  
If you wrote some lines of thanksgiving for Psalm 136, what would you write?

### **Friday**

What do you appreciate most about these Psalms of Praise?

### **Saturday**

Which sayings from Proverbs 25-26 help you understand true wisdom?

## **Taking Scripture to Heart:**

As we continue focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text is **Mathew 5:43-48**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

## **Next Sunday: February 8, 2015**

**Theme:** Jesus, speaker of parables

**Scripture Focus:** *Luke 15*