

# A better life (9)

Matthew 5: 11 – 12  
The paradoxical beatitude

# Call to worship

10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch,



Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.  
12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... 2 Timothy 3: 10 – 12 (NIV)



# Opening prayer

**Give us, O God, a vision of your glory, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth, and offer the praise of glad and thankful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



# Confession

Lord Jesus, You came into the  
world to save sinners:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**



We have brought sorrow and hurt  
to You, to others and to ourselves:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**



You give Yourself to heal and  
renew us, and to bring us strength:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**



Know that your sins are forgiven  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,  
and rejoice in his goodness and  
grace.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**



# 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)



Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes



Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore (Forevermore)

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



Yes I'll worship Your Holy name  
I'll worship Your Holy name



Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



# The Offertory Prayer

God of life, saviour of the poor,  
receive with this money gratitude for  
your goodness, penitence for our  
pride and dedication to your service  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



# Matthew 5: 11 - 12

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for



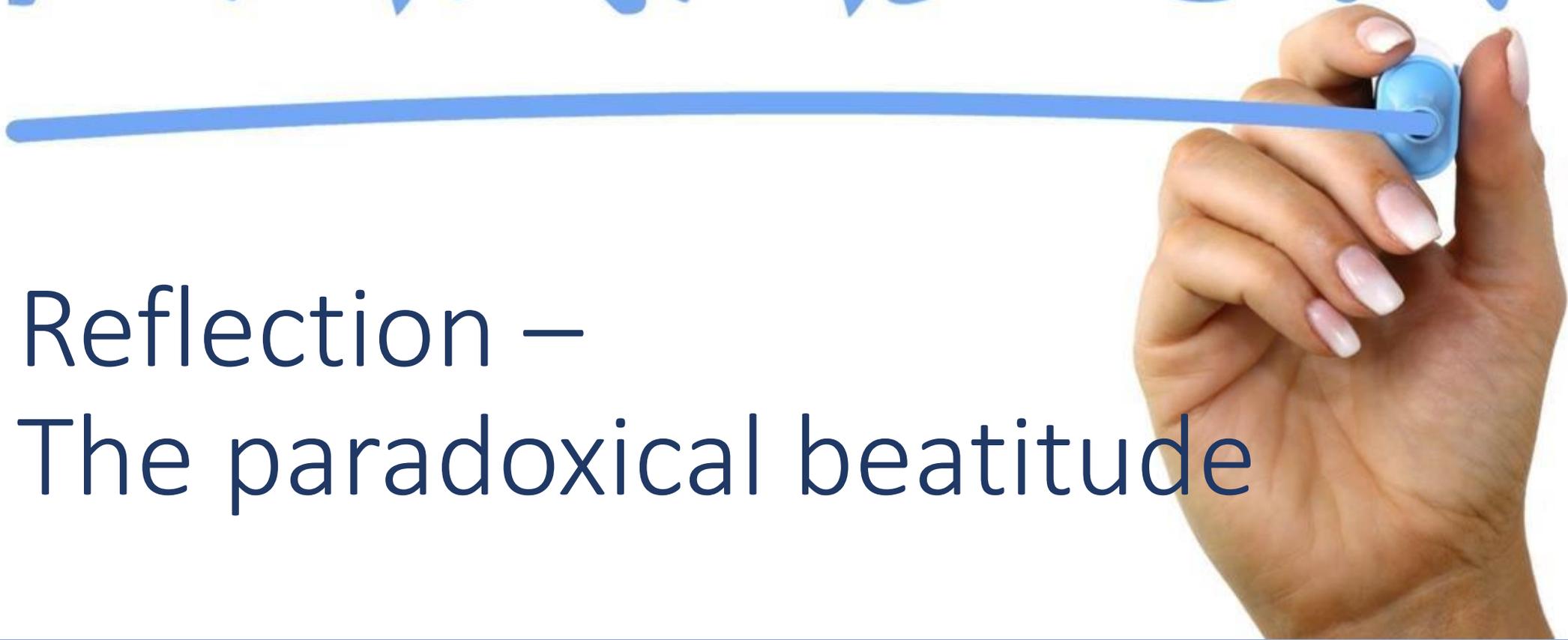
in the same way they persecuted  
the prophets who were before you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# PARADOX



Reflection –  
The paradoxical beatitude





# Prayers of intercession

Loving father we pray:

For all world leaders that they may always respond to the needs of the poor, hungry and vulnerable in their societies. That they lead with justice and fairness for all.



For the church that through the Holy Spirit, that we and by us the church will know your will and share your gospel of light and grace with those around us.



For those who hunger and thirst  
for meaning in their lives, for  
those who struggle because of the  
pandemic and the lockdowns.  
That their needs might be met  
through turning to you.



We pray for those who are celebrating birthdays, weddings and anniversaries that through the celebrations they experience the joy and happiness of the grace you brought us.



For those known to us who are unwell we ask for your healing power to be upon them. We think of Roger and Carol, of Roger and Sheila and in the silence lift before you others know to us.



For those who grieve may they  
experience your comfort,  
strength, and compassion directly  
and through those around them.



For those who are persecuted and lied about for righteousness's sake we ask your protection. For those who stand up for belief in Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen and protect them. Through their example may your love and light



be shown in this world through the lives of those who follow you.

We lift these and all our prayers to you,  
O God, confident in the promise of your  
saving love; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen**



You raise me up



Bowthorpe  
Church

When I am down and, oh my soul, so  
weary

When troubles come and my heart  
burdened be

Then, I am still and wait here in the  
silence

Until You come and sit awhile with me.



You raise me up, so I can stand on  
mountains

You raise me up, to walk on stormy  
seas

I am strong, when I am on your  
shoulders

You raise me up to more than I can be



You raise me up, so I can stand on  
mountains

You raise me up, to walk on stormy  
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I am strong, when I am on your  
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You raise me up to more than I  
can be.



# The Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ said to the apostles:

'I leave you peace, my peace I give to you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.



The peace of the Lord be always  
with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us share a sign of the peace  
with one another.



# Communion

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
God.

**It is right to give our thanks and  
praise.**



It is indeed right, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, the true and living God.

Endless is your mercy and eternal is your reign.



All creation rejoices in your radiant splendour.

You made a covenant with your people and declared your purpose of justice and love.

When all things were ready, you sent your Son to be our Saviour.



In words and deeds, he  
proclaimed your kingdom, and  
obeyed your will even to death on  
the cross.



Through his mighty resurrection he overcame sin and death to set the whole creation free.

Therefore, with saints and angels and with all the choirs of heaven, we join in the song of eternal praise.



**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**



We praise you, Father, that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,



‘Take and eat. This is my body,  
given for you. Do this in  
remembrance of me.’



After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying,

‘This cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness



of sin. Do this in remembrance  
of me.'



**As often as we eat this bread  
and drink this cup, we proclaim  
the Lord's death until he comes.**



Therefore, gracious God, with this bread and this cup we remember that our Lord offered his life for us. Believing the witness of his resurrection and ascension, we look for his coming in glory, and our sharing in his great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that these gifts of bread and wine may  
be for us the body and blood of Christ  
and that we may live to your praise  
and glory with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**



Join our prayers and the prayers of all  
your people on earth and in heaven  
with the intercession of Christ, our  
great high priest,



**through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all worship and honour are yours, almighty God and Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**



# The Lord's prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be  
done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**



**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against  
us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours now and for ever.**

**Amen.**



The bread we break is a sharing  
in the body of Christ.

**Christ is the Bread of life.**

The cup we take is a sharing in  
the blood of Christ.

**Christ is the true Vine.**



# Prayer after communion

**We praise you, God, for the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation which you give for the life of the world.**

**With this food for our journey bring us with your saints to the feast of your glory. Amen.**



# Amazing grace (My chains are gone)



Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see



'Twas grace that taught my heart to  
fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed



My chains are gone,  
I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has  
ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace



The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures



My chains are gone,  
I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has  
ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace



My chains are gone,  
I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has  
ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace



The earth shall soon dissolve like  
snow

The sun forbear to shine

But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever  
mine

You are forever mine



Closing prayer and blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine  
on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with  
kindness and give you peace.

**Amen.**



Go in peace to love and serve  
the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**