# **Epiphany**

Meditations,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.com

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## **Matthew 2:1-2**

(NASB)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

#### Matthew 3:16-17

(NASB)

After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, and behold, a voice from the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

## Matthew 17:1-3, 5

(NASB)

Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter responded and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You want, I will make three tabernacles here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"

## When the Heavens Open

When God opens the heavens,

He shows us what He is doing.

He shows us our world as He sees it.

When Jesus was born, God opened the heavens.

He sent us a special star to announce that

the magnificent, transcendent God was

now living among us.

The star drew worshipers from

a far-away land and

a different religion.

They were the first sign that the One who had come was

the Light of all the nations and

the King of all Kings.

When Jesus was baptized, God opened the heavens.

As Jesus' ministry began, His first act was to publicly

take all our sins upon Himself.

The Sinless One lined up with the sinners and

symbolically died beneath Jordan's waters,

bearing the sins of the whole world.

At this crucial moment.

the Father spoke and

the Spirit appeared.

Together they testified that

this was indeed the pure and perfect Son of God.

When Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration,

God opened the heavens.

As Jesus approached His death,

the Father gave three disciples a fleeting glimpse of

the Christ as He truly was,

in His eternal splendor,

human yet heavenly.

The law and the prophets visibly testified to Him.

On all three occasions, God opened the heavens to show us

unmistakably,

unforgettably

that His own Son had come to us,

the Light of the World.

He had taken on our flesh and blood to bear away all our sin. He had come so that every one of us might share fully and forever in Him.

Hymn recording: **Epiphany Hymn (REGENT SQUARE)** 

# **Epiphany Hymn**

TUNE: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (REGENT SQUARE)

Matthew 2:1-11; 3:13-17; 17:1-8; Mark 1:9-11; 9:2-8;

Luke 3:21-22; 9:28-36; John 1:29-34



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MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

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#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

(NASB)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For from you will come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over the place where the Child was to be found. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And after being warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

## **Christmas Is the Story of a Star**

Christmas is the story of a Star. The wise men had studied the stars for years, but suddenly, One Star caused them to leave home on a long journey, traveling many difficult months. That One Star was a sign from heaven, and they followed. One Star was their only guide all the way from a distant country through so much desert and so many midnights. One Star led them to a simple house in the tiny village of far-away Bethlehem.

One Star.

Christmas is the story of a Star.
The story reminds us that
God never leaves us alone.
Even in the blackest night,
He always sends
One Star.
And our Star is

Jesus.

Father, through all this darkness, Jesus is the Light leading us to You. I will walk in Him step by step.

Hymn recording: The March of the Three Wise Men

# The March of the Three Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-11



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#### Psalm 72:1-17

(NASB)

Give the king Your judgments, God,
And Your righteousness to the king's son.
May he judge Your people with righteousness
And Your afflicted with justice.
May the mountains bring peace to the people,
And the hills, in righteousness.
May he vindicate the afflicted of the people,
Save the children of the needy,
And crush the oppressor.

May they fear You while the sun shines,
And as long as the moon shines, throughout all generations.
May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
Like showers that water the earth.
May the righteous flourish in his days,
As well as an abundance of peace, until the moon is no more.

May he also rule from sea to sea,
And from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.
May the nomads of the desert bow before him,
And his enemies lick the dust.
May the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring gifts;
May the kings of Sheba and Seba offer tributes.
And may all kings bow down before him,
All nations serve him.

For he will save the needy when he cries for help,
The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.
He will have compassion on the poor and needy,
And he will save the lives of the needy.
He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,
And their blood will be precious in his sight;
So may he live, and may the gold of Sheba be given to him;
And they are to pray for him continually;
They are to bless him all day long.

16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth on top of the mountains; Its fruit will wave like the cedars of Lebanon; And may those from the city flourish like the vegetation of the earth. May his name endure forever;

May his name produce descendants as long as the sun shines; And may people wish blessings on themselves by him; May all nations call him blessed.

## **Prepare for Epiphany**

Father, we who walked in darkness have seen a Great Light.

The Sun of Righteousness has risen over us.

The Light of all the nations has dawned.

Your glory has appeared, and
we have seen it.
It is the glory of Your only Son,
who has come from Your own intimate presence.
His glory shines brightly with
Your grace and
Your truth.

Jesus is the Light of the World.
As we come to worship this Epiphany,
we come to the Light.
We walk in the Light.
We lift the Light so that all can see Him.

**Hymn recording: Light of Every Nation** 

# **Light of Every Nation**

TUNE: Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow (alt.) Psalm 72; Isaiah 42:5-7; 49:5-13; 60:1-3; Amos 5:24; Matthew 2:1-11; Philippians 2:9-11 = 96D D C CM<sup>7</sup> 1. God's chil-dren come from far and near, Come to kneel in wor - ship. The 2. He shat-ters all the chains that bind. Glo - ry in the high - est! Now 3. See jus - tice like God Him-self might - y stream! is with us! Now a  $\frac{\mathbf{D}}{\mathbf{A}}$  $\frac{F\sharp^7}{A\sharp}$  $\overline{D_6}$ G D D  $B\, \mathsf{m}$  $GM^7$ Em<sup>7</sup> dawn - ing of His reign is here. See them come and wor - ship! life is rich and un - con-fined. Glo - ry in the high - est! God Him - self good - ness reign su-preme. with us! Refrain N.C. D  $\mathbf{C}$  $CM^7$  $Bm^7$ Je sus! Je sus! Light of 'ry na - tion! <u>G</u> D D G Bm $GM^7$  $Em^7$ D Α Ev - 'ry knee will bow to You, Lord of all cre a - tion!

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RISE UP

C.M.w.Ref.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Afro-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

## Isaiah 53:6

(NASB)

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the wrongdoing of us all To]fall on Him.

#### John 1:29-34

(NASB)

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He in behalf of whom I said, 'After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.' And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water."

And John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

#### Lamb of God

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24, NIV), but His sinbearing did not begin on Golgotha.

As He emptied Himself of all that made Him equal to the Father (Philippians 2:5-8), He was taking our sins upon Himself.

John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, NIV), not at the end of His ministry, but at its very beginning. The first public act of this sinless One was to humble Himself, line up with sinners, and symbolically die beneath the waters of the Jordan. There, from day one, He bore our sins.

For forty days He faced extreme deprivation and temptation in the wilderness, all that we might have a high priest...who has been tempted in every way, just as we are...that he might make atonement for the sins of the people (Hebrews 4:15; 2:17, NIV).

Throughout His ministry He bore all the fruits of our sin. Homelessness, rejection, hatred, poverty, and persecution were His daily experience. He took upon Himself the needs of the thousands that flocked to Him—their ignorance, disease, demon possession, grief, and hunger.

Finally, He laid down His life before those who hated Him and thirsted for His blood. He silently surrendered Himself to their humiliation, torture, and cruel execution.

But this was only the culmination of His self-sacrifice. He bore our sins, not for a few hours, but for His entire holy life.

Hymn recording: You Bore Our Sin, O Lamb of God

## You Bore Our Sin, O Lamb of God

TUNE: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (WALTHAM)

Isaiah 53; Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13;

John 1:29; 10:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:24



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## John 1:43-51

(NASB)

The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets also wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!" Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good be from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

#### Walk with Me

I get overwhelmed with the world's needs. Billions are dying of physical and spiritual hunger. Desperate problems surround me every day.

I ask God, "What should I do?" He answers:

Walk with Me.

When I start over-organizing my life, He says:

Walk with Me.

When I get too preoccupied with my work and ministry, He whispers:

Walk with Me.

That was Jesus' call to His first disciples.
They learned to live and serve by
being with Him,
listening to Him, and
obeying Him situation by situation.

Nothing has changed.
Effective living and
effective service
still flow from walking with Him
step-by-step.

Father,
as I face decisions today,
I will not know the way to go.
Lead, and I will follow.

Hymn recording: Come and Follow Me

## Come and Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-22; 14:22-33; 16:21-28; and parallel passages; John 21:15-23



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#### Luke 5:1-11

(NASB)

Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little distance from the land. And He sat down and continued teaching the crowds from the boat.

Now when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon responded and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets."

And when they had done this, they caught a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to tear; so they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, to the point that they were sinking.

But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and likewise also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

## **Prayer Response to Luke 5:1-11**

```
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace,
      You are here right now
      standing before us,
      God with Us, Immanuel.
You are speaking, and
      we drink in
      words of life.
You are meeting our needs with
      extravagant abundance.
We are beginning to realize
      Who
      You
      are.
Now You are calling us
      to follow You
      to walk with You and
             work alongside You,
      to live with You and
             die with You,
      to share Your sacrifice and
             share Your glory.
So immediately
we leave everything and eagerly
      follow
      You
```

alone.

Hymn recording: The Catch and the Call

## The Catch and the Call

Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; John 8:31-32, 36



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

LUKE 5 C.M.D.

## John 2:1-11

(NASB)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "What business do you have with Me, woman? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He tells you, do it."

Now there were six stone waterpots standing there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing two or three measures each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it to him.

Now when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the groom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the guests are drunk, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

#### **Water into Wine**

Jesus' first miracle was sparked by down-to-earth, human reasons:
to save His friends from embarrassment and to please His mother.

But Father, this down-to-earth miracle gives us such a beautiful glimpse of Your tender love for Your children.

What matters to us, matters to You, however trivial the need may seem.

You care about each of us deeply, thoroughly, in every detail.

This first miracle sets the tone for all the others.

You love us!

That is Your message.

Yes, Your ultimate concern is

the sin that plagues us,

and You long for us to

spend eternity with You.

But Your love doesn't stop there.

Your heart yearns for the health of

our bodies and

our minds.

You care about our relationships,

our embarrassments.

and yes, about the supply of refreshments at our party.

Your love is not just a surface, big-picture love.

It is rich and real.

all-embracing and all-encompassing.

And since Your love is so broad and deep and practical, how many beautiful opportunities You have given us to express that love to everyone around us!

**Hymn recording: Water into Wine** 

## Water into Wine



## Luke 4:14-21

(NASB)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding region. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives,

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To set free those who are oppressed,

To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all the people in the synagogue were intently directed at Him. Now He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

#### **Jesus Introduces Himself**

When Jesus introduced Himself

to His hometown crowd in Nazareth,

He did so with these words:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives,

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To set free those who are oppressed,

To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.'...

Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

(Luke 4:18-19, 21, NASB)

He was reading Isaiah 61:1-2a,

which is part of a longer passage describing the

comfort and

total transformation

that God's Messiah,

His specially Anointed One,

would bring to God's people.

#### He would bring

relief and release to all held captive,

healing for every broken heart,

the righting of every wrong.

He would clothe His people with

joy and praise

from head to toe.

But most importantly, He would glow with

the loving compassion,

the tender, all-out, self-giving love of

Almighty God.

Friends, He has come!

The day of God's grace is now!

Come know Him!

Come trust Him!

Come rejoice in Him!

Messiah is HERE!

Hymn recording: <u>Isaiah 61</u>

## Isaiah 61

TUNE: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (MARION) *Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11; Luke 4:16-22* 



WORDS: Ken Bible MARION MUSIC: Arthur H. Messiter (1834-1916) S.M.w.Ref.

## Mark 1:21-28

(NASB)

They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, "What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!"

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" After throwing him into convulsions and crying out with a loud voice, the unclean spirit came out of him.

And they were all amazed, so they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding region of Galilee.

## Which Spirit?

The New Testament pictures two different kinds of spirit-filling:

filled with the spirit of evil and

filled with the Spirit of God.

The most extreme form of the spirit of evil is

demon possession,

seen repeatedly in the gospels.

Those individuals are described as helpless captives to

all the worst of human existence:

sickness,

suffering,

self-harm, and

total degradation.

Paul describes the fruits of evil in their more common form:

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

(Galatians 5:19-21, NASB)

The gospels also paint a beautiful portrait of a human being filled with the Spirit of God Himself.

That portrait is

Jesus Christ.

And back in Galatians 5, Paul lists the fruit of that Spirit,

the fruit that grows in the life of every believer:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23, NASB)

Each type of spirit-filling begins small, with either

a heart focus on self, or

a simple faith in God.

But from that small beginning, the tiny seed grows

day by

day by

day.

Paul reminds us of where each is headed:

Do you not know that the one to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of that same one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

The wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:16, 23, NASB)

Which spirit do you want to fill your heart and life and home?

Hymn recording: Which Spirit?

# Which Spirit?

Psalm 23:4; Matthew 6:13; 12:43-45; Luke 4:33-37; John 10:10; 17:20-23; Galatians 5:17-25



WHICH SPIRIT? WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

7.6.7.7.

## Mark 1:29-39

(NASB)

Immediately after they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and they immediately \*spoke to Jesus about her. And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she served them.

Now when evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city had gathered at the door. And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

And in the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and prayed there for a time. Simon and his companions eagerly searched for Him; and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." He said to them, "Let's go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may also preach there; for this is why I came." And He went into their synagogues preaching throughout Galilee, and casting out the demons.

#### **Christ Our Healer**

Jesus came to remove all the root and fruit of sin

from our hearts and lives and

from all creation.

But during His brief earthly ministry, His physical healings were

partial and

temporary.

None were restored to perfect, all-encompassing health

as in the Garden of Eden before the fall.

All would eventually get sick again and die.

He was planting the seeds of the Kingdom.

When the Kingdom is fully grown, on earth as in heaven,

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4, NASB)

That is our Healer's purpose and

unwavering promise.

Complete health is our destiny.

Our Healer still heals.

That is His nature.

Our Creator even designed our bodies to heal themselves.

But physical healing now is

only a foretaste of what is coming.

We will share all the

life, health, and well-being of

Jesus Christ Himself,

body,

mind, and

spirit,

completely and

forever.

We will all be healed.

Bring your need to Him, then trust His way and time.

**Hymn recording: We Long for Wholeness** 

# We Long for Wholeness

Isaiah 35:3-10; 61:1-3; Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Revelation 7:17; 21:1-4



Alt. Tune: AZMON
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#### **Matthew 5:1-12**

(NASB)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and began to teach 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 gentle, for they will inherit the earth.

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

"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 sons of God.

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

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

#### All the Best of Life

The beatitudes begin the Sermon on the Mount and focus on God's upside-down recipe for success. Human society seems to prize people that are strong, self-confident, positive, and assertive, pursuing goals that provide themselves and others with more money or enhanced physical life. Are they a bit selfish? No problem. Who isn't?

But Jesus' recipe for success is radically different. Remember, He alone has experienced both life on earth and an eternity in heaven. He has seen it all, and here is His description of the person truly blessed by God:

- poor in spirit;
- mourning;
- meek;
- hungering and thirsting for righteousness;
- merciful;
- pure in heart;
- making peace;
- suffering persecution for obeying God.

What an unlikely set of qualifications for success! None of the qualifications are strength, skill, material goods, or human accomplishment. All flow from a focus on God and the humility that results.

Here are the gifts God gives these blessed ones:

- the Kingdom of heaven;
- His comfort;
- rulership of the entire earth;
- righteousness in abundance;
- mercy;
- the privilege of seeing God and being His children.

None of these gifts of God are material. All are blessings on the inner, eternal person, and all outlast this world. Jesus, the only person with a complete and accurate view of life, urges us to prize these gifts.

Father, I want to please You.

May that always be my one goal and desire.

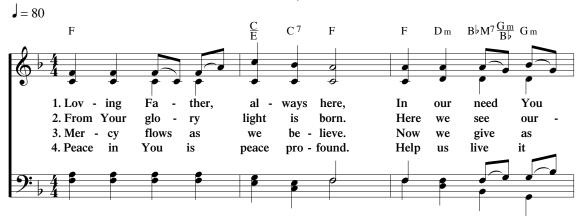
And may that desire shape my heart, my thoughts, and my daily life.

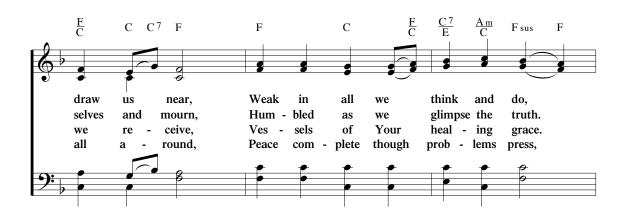
Hymn recording: **Beatitudes Hymn** 

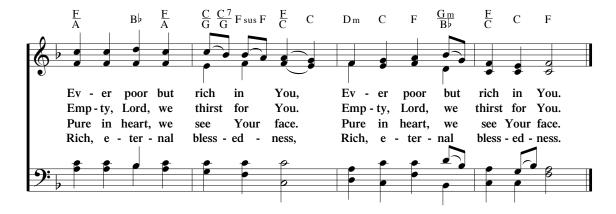
# **Beatitudes Hymn**

TUNE: Take My Life, and Let It Be (HENDON)

Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-26







WORDS: Ken Bible HENDON MUSIC: Henri A. Cesar Malan 7.7.7.7.

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## Luke 9:27-36

(NASB)

"I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

About eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter, John, and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who were standing with Him. And as these two men were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; and let's make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not realizing what he was saying.

But while he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And then a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

## The Transfiguration

Jesus had just drawn from His disciples a confession that He was indeed the Messiah. Immediately He began to explain to them what this would mean: He would have to suffer, be rejected, and be killed, then rise again after three days; and if they wanted to be His disciples, they would have to deny themselves, take up their own crosses daily, and follow Him.

What a bombshell for these disciples! It definitely wasn't what they were expecting, either for Jesus or for themselves.

So to cement this crucial new revelation about Jesus, three of the disciples were given a glimpse of who He really was. Normally an ordinary-looking Hebrew peasant, for a few fleeting moments three disciples saw a glimmer of His natural glory. He physically shone with the radiance of heaven, and there in person were the law and the prophets, Moses and Elijah, testifying to Him. What a stunning sight!

Decades later, as an old man, Peter would still be talking about it as the day of his own martyrdom drew near:

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. (2 Peter 1:16-18, NIV)

This was the One who would soon suffer humiliation and a seemingly-final death. This was the One calling them to lay down their lives and follow Him.

And for all of us who follow after, the truth about who Jesus is still brings us assurance and stability. Who Jesus is fills our uncertainty with a settled peace. It points us beyond suffering to eternal glory. We must never forget Whom we are following. We must never forget Who spoke the wisdom and the promises by which we live.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Hymn recording:** Transfiguration Hymn

# **Transfiguration Hymn**



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