

“Intro to the Counter-Cultural Christian World”

Matthew 5:1-12

Micah 6:1-8

2/1/2026

**(Show Cashimur Slide)**

Did I mention that Cashimur is my newest grandson?

Here’s a pro tip for you.

Let’s say you want a short sermon...

Does it work to say,

*Hey Dad, how about keeping the sermon short this week*

*Hey Pastor, we really like it when your sermons are really short  
(or don’t have staples in them)*

You know what works?

Scheduling a baptism on a Sunday  
when we have Holy Communion  
and a funeral after church over in Faribault

**(Show Blank Slide)**

I you came today looking forward to a long sermon,

Sorry!

Come back next week and I’ll see if I can make it extra long

I do have a couple things to say because they are important

You see, this morning Cash will be  
*initiated into Christ’s holy church.  
incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation  
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.*

And he will be inducted into a counter-cultural way  
of seeing the world and living his life

We know from last week,

Jesus has just finished calling his first disciples,  
Simon and Andrew, James and John

Instead of fishing for fish,

Jesus is now showing them how to fish for people.

Jesus has been traveling through the region of Galilee,

Teaching in the synagogues

Telling about the good news

of the kingdom of heaven that is coming

and healing people who had

various diseases

pain

demon possession

epilepsy

and paralysis

I bet that was something for

Simon and Andrew, James and John to witness huh?

**(Show Bloch Sermon of the Mount Slide)**

And now, he brings them up a mountain,

Ans sits down with his new disciples

And Jesus begins to preach...

<sup>3</sup> *"Happy are people who are hopeless,  
because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

<sup>4</sup> *"Happy are people who grieve,  
because they will be made glad.*

<sup>5</sup> *"Happy are people who are humble,  
because they will inherit the earth.*

– Matthew 5:3-5

If you’ve been here before, perhaps you’ve heard me talk about

the Greek word μακάριος

**(Show μακάριος Slide)**

In 1611, we translated μακάριος as “Blessed”

when the King James Bible was written

400 years later, in 2011,

when the *Common English Bible* came out

The one we use today here,

μακάριος was translated as “happy” (not my favorite)

**(Show μακάριος – happy Slide)**

The problem is that we don't have a good English word  
for μακάριος

If we could make up a word that means at the same time  
*(Show μακάριος – Rich/Fortunate Slide)*

Blessed  
Happy  
Rich  
Fortunate

We'd come a bit closer  
*(Show Bloch Sermon of the Mount Slide)*

So this morning, let's translate it as "supremely fortunate"

<sup>3</sup> *"Supremely fortunate are people who are hopeless,  
because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

<sup>4</sup> *"Supremely fortunate are people who grieve,  
because they will be made glad.*

<sup>5</sup> *"Supremely fortunate are people who are humble,  
because they will inherit the earth.*

*(Show Cashimur Slide)*

This is important this morning,  
Because as Cash is  
incorporated by the Holy Spirit  
into God's new creation  
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood  
and becomes a part of the family of Christ

These words are an introduction of sorts  
of the new life he will be living  
An abundant and eternal life in Christ Jesus  
A counter-cultural life.

Notice what Jesus doesn't say  
when he is talking about those who are blessed or happy  
*(Show Bloch Sermon of the Mount Slide)*

It's not  
*Happy are people who just won the Powerball lottery*  
*Happy are people who just bought a new car*  
*Happy are people who have the nicest house on the block*  
*Happy are people who just got a promotion and a pay raise*

Instead it is  
*Those without hope*  
*Those who grieve*  
*Those who are humble*  
*Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness*  
These are those who are blessed/happy/ supremely fortunate

And notice here that Jesus is no longer  
preaching to the crowds on the mountain top  
He is now talking to that small group  
Who would later be called to be his disciples

To this smaller, select group  
He is saying that if you are looking for  
Riches  
Fame  
Power  
A life of comfort  
This might not be the job for you

*(Show Peace Corps – Toughest Job Slide)*

Remember back when the Peace Corps slogan was  
*The toughest job you'll ever love?*

*(Show Peace Corps – Changing Lives Slide)*

Their new slogan is now  
*Changing lives the world over*

But I really like  
*The toughest job you'll ever love*  
*(Show Bloch Sermon of the Mount – toughest job Slide)*

Jesus is telling his potential disciples  
That when they are called and choose to follow him  
It won't all be sunshine and unicorns

But in this life of **following Jesus**  
**Despite** the hardships  
*(Show Bloch Sermon of the Mount Slide)*

There are the blessings of  
 Being a part of the kingdom of heaven  
 Gladness as we are comforted in our grief  
 Experiencing righteousness in our lives  
 Knowing mercy and showing mercy  
 Seeing God in our lives  
 And knowing that we are a **beloved child** of God

Yep, there are times when following Jesus is not easy

But in this life of following Jesus  
 Despite the hardships  
 Despite of not being able to do some of things  
 I would want to do if I was self-centered and selfish  
 There are the blessings that come from following Jesus

The Apostle Paul lists them out when he writes to the Galatians  
<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup> *gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.*

– Galatians 5:22-23

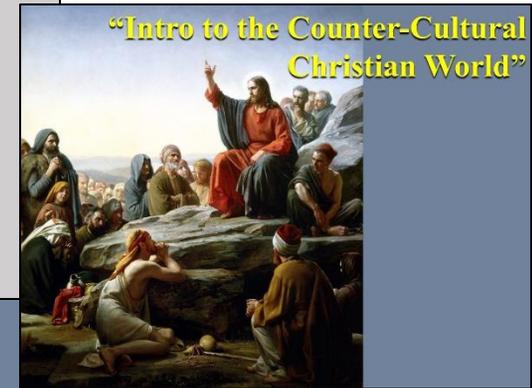
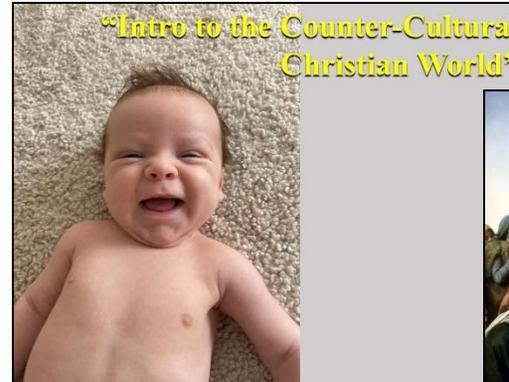
Again, this is nothing new  
 About 700 years before Jesus and Paul came on the scene,  
 The Prophet Micah said this,  
<sup>6</sup> *With what should I approach the LORD  
 and bow down before God on high?  
 Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings,  
 with year-old calves?*  
<sup>7</sup> *Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
 with many torrents of oil?  
 Should I give my oldest child for my crime;  
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?*  
<sup>8</sup> *He has told you, human one, what is good  
 and what the Lord requires from you:  
 to do justice, embrace faithful love,  
 and walk humbly with your God.*

–Micah 6:6-8

So, what’s this crazy family of Jesus that Cashimur is joining?

(Show Bloch Sermon of the Mount – Cashimur Slide)

A baptized Christian is someone who follows Jesus  
 And lives a life that has experiences both good and bad  
 But as Cash lives this life  
 He will eventually discover that he is indeed blessed  
 Supremely fortunate  
 He will indeed be happy and joyful as he follows Jesus  
 (Celebration of Baptism – Baptismal Covenant II (p. 39-43))



μακάριος

“Blessed” (KJV 1611 ad)

“Happy” (CEB 2011 ad)

“Rich” or “Fortunate”

