

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## The Power of Words

We live in a time when we're bombarded by thousands of words each day; some encouraging, but often a lot that's discouraging especially during this pandemic.

It's easy to get overwhelmed and to avoid listening or looking at what's being said, even though we know that words are powerful.

Many a good speech, or dare I say sermon, has roused the spirits and reminded us of better times or better ways of living.

And the Beatitudes would certainly fall into that category.

Words that speak of the difficulties of life and yet offer hope for those who trust in God.

Yet even when we read the Bible we can scan over familiar passages and lose the meaning and the promises within; especially passages which begin with the same word over and over again – as we have in this 'Blessed' passage.

But we do have options on how we might re engage with this passage, by simply looking at different versions of the Bible (available on the internet) such as The Passion Translation which offers us alternative words to encourage us to hear again the truly powerful words of Jesus in Mark chapter 5 v3-11:

3 "What wealth is offered to you when you feel your spiritual poverty! For there is no charge to enter the realm of heaven's kingdom.

4 "What delight comes to you when you wait upon the Lord! For you will find what you long for.

5 "What blessing comes to you when gentleness lives in you! For you will inherit the earth.

6 "How enriched you are when you crave righteousness! For you will be surrounded with fruitfulness.

7 "How satisfied you are when you demonstrate tender mercy! For tender mercy will be demonstrated to you.

8 "What bliss you experience when your heart is pure! For then your eyes will open to see more and more of God.

9 "How blessed you are when you make peace! For then you will be recognized as a true child of God.

10 "How enriched you are when you bear the wounds of being persecuted for doing what is right! For that is when you experience the realm of heaven's kingdom.

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11 “How ecstatic you can be when people insult and persecute you and speak all kinds of cruel lies about you because of your love for me!

Isn't it amazing how using a version with more accessible language gives a us new understanding and encourages us to ponder again the truly powerful words of Jesus for today?

Why not give it a try this week? I'm sure you'll be blessed.

**Rev Lisa Senior, Rector of Colne**