



# DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

## Daily Devotionals:

On Sunday, we returned to the mountainside where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount and focused on the Beatitudes as a portrait of life in God’s kingdom. We began by recalling the first three Beatitudes, which describe the inward transformation required of kingdom citizens: recognizing our spiritual poverty, mourning over sin, and surrendering to God in meekness. Then, we explored the next steps, starting with a hunger and thirst for righteousness—a deep and unrelenting longing for God’s will to shape our hearts and lives, bringing true satisfaction that only He can provide. We reflected on the call to be merciful, extending the grace we’ve received to others; the blessing of purity in heart, which allows us to experience God more deeply; and the role of peacemakers, who reflect God’s mission of reconciliation in the world. Each of these Beatitudes challenged us to align our lives with God’s character and reminded us of our dependence on His grace to live as His people. Ultimately, we were encouraged to keep striving toward the life Jesus described, knowing that He is with us, empowering us every step of the way.

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## Monday: Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

### Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:6 ESV

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

### Devotional:

Have you ever been so hungry or thirsty that you couldn’t think about anything else? Jesus uses this vivid picture to describe what it means to long for righteousness—a desire so intense and persistent that it consumes us. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to crave what is right in God’s eyes. It’s a yearning to see His will done in our lives and the world around us. This longing comes not from a sense of obligation or duty, but from a transformed heart that desires God’s presence and ways above all else.

This Beatitude calls us to an active and ongoing pursuit. It is not a one-time decision but a lifelong process of seeking God’s truth, holiness, and justice. True righteousness goes beyond external behavior; it begins in the heart and leads to a life that reflects God’s character. While the world often settles for superficial goodness or the approval of others, Jesus invites us to pursue a righteousness that brings true satisfaction—one that only He can provide.

As we journey through life, we may find ourselves growing weary or distracted. But Jesus promises that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied. This satisfaction isn’t about having all the answers or reaching perfection in this life; it’s about finding fulfillment in a relationship with God. When we seek Him wholeheartedly, we discover that He alone can meet the deepest desires of our souls.

## Reflection Questions:

1. What does it look like in your life to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
2. Are there areas where you’ve settled for outward appearances instead of true heart transformation?
3. How can you actively pursue God’s righteousness this week?

## Prayer:

Lord, create in me a hunger and thirst for Your righteousness. Help me to seek You with all my heart and to desire Your ways above all else. When I grow weary or distracted, remind me that You alone can satisfy the deepest longings of my soul. Transform me from the inside out so that my life reflects Your character and brings glory to Your name. Amen.

## Tuesday: The Merciful

### Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:7 ESV

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

### Devotional:

Mercy is one of the most beautiful attributes of God, and Jesus invites His followers to reflect that same mercy in their lives. To be merciful is to show compassion and kindness to those in need, to forgive those who have wronged us, and to care for others with no expectation of repayment. Mercy flows from a heart that has been transformed by God’s grace—a heart that recognizes its own need for mercy and extends it to others.

The Bible is full of reminders of God’s mercy toward us. In Ephesians 2:4-5, Paul writes, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.” God’s mercy is not given because we deserve it, but because of His love. When we reflect on the mercy we’ve received, it humbles us and compels us to show mercy to others.

But mercy is not always easy. It requires us to let go of bitterness, pride, and a sense of entitlement. It may cost us our time, energy, or resources. Yet, Jesus assures us that the merciful will receive mercy. As we extend God’s grace to others, we open our hearts to experience His mercy in deeper and richer ways. Mercy becomes both a gift we receive and a gift we give, drawing us closer to the heart of God.

## Reflection Questions:

1. Who in your life is in need of mercy today?
2. How can reflecting on God’s mercy toward you help you extend mercy to others?
3. What might be holding you back from showing mercy in a particular situation?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your abundant mercy toward me. Help me to extend that same mercy to others, even when it’s difficult or costly. Soften my heart and fill me with compassion for those in need. May my life be a reflection of Your grace, pointing others to the hope and forgiveness found in You. Amen.

## Wednesday: The Pure in Heart

### Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:8 ESV

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

### Devotional:

Purity of heart begins with a singular focus: a wholehearted devotion to God. In a world filled with distractions and competing loyalties, Jesus calls us to a life of undivided love for Him. To be pure in heart means that our thoughts, desires, and motives are aligned with God’s will. It’s not about achieving perfection but about continually surrendering to God’s refining work in our lives.

When we draw near to God, seeking His cleansing and guidance, He transforms our hearts. King David’s

prayer in Psalm 51:10 reflects this desire: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Purity is not something we can achieve on our own; it is a work of God’s grace. As we yield to Him, He removes the distractions, idols, and impurities that pull us away from Him and replaces them with a deep and abiding love for Him.

Jesus promises that the pure in heart will see God. While this promise will be fully realized in eternity, we can experience glimpses of it even now. As our hearts become more attuned to Him, we begin to see His presence in His Word, His works, and His people. The more we seek Him, the more clearly we experience His love, guidance, and peace in our daily lives.

## Reflection Questions:

1. What distractions or divided allegiances might be hindering your devotion to God?
2. How can you invite God to purify your heart this week?
3. In what ways have you seen God’s presence in your life recently?

## Prayer:

Lord, I long to have a pure heart that seeks You above all else. Cleanse me of anything that distracts or pulls me away from You. Help me to surrender every part of my life to You and to trust in Your transforming work. Open my eyes to see Your presence and to experience the joy of walking closely with You each day. Amen.

## Thursday: The Peacemakers

### Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:9 ESV

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

### Devotional:

Peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the restoration of wholeness and harmony. As followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers—people who actively work to bring reconciliation in our relationships, our communities, and the world around us. This is not a passive calling. Peacemaking requires humility, courage, and a willingness to address the deeper issues that cause division.

True peace begins with God. Through Jesus, we are reconciled to God and invited into His family. As recipients of this peace, we are called to reflect God’s heart by pursuing reconciliation with others. This

may mean extending forgiveness, confronting issues with love, or sacrificing our own comfort for the sake of unity. Peacemaking is hard work, but it is holy work that mirrors God’s mission of restoring what sin has broken.

Jesus promises that peacemakers will be called “sons of God.” When we work to bring peace, we reflect the heart of our Heavenly Father and demonstrate that we belong to His family. Peacemaking is not about avoiding conflict or pleasing people; it’s about pointing others to the ultimate source of peace—Jesus Christ.

## Reflection Questions:

1. Are there any relationships in your life that need reconciliation?
2. How can you pursue peace in a way that reflects God’s heart?
3. What steps can you take to be a peacemaker in your community or church?

## Prayer:

Father, thank You for making peace with us through Jesus Christ. Help me to be a peacemaker in my relationships and to reflect Your heart in the way I interact with others. Give me the courage, wisdom, and humility to address conflict with love and to seek reconciliation where it is needed. May my life point others to the ultimate peace found in You. Amen.

## Friday: The Promise of Satisfaction

### Scripture Reading:

John 6:35 ESV

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”

### Devotional:

Jesus’ promise in John 6:35 reminds us that the hunger and thirst we feel deep within our souls can only be satisfied by Him. The world offers temporary solutions (success, wealth, relationships, and pleasure) but none of these can truly fulfill the longing for meaning and purpose in our hearts. This hunger and thirst are not weaknesses; they are signs that we were created for something greater than this world.

The imagery of bread and water points us to the sustaining and life-giving nature of Jesus. Just as we need physical food and water to survive, our spirits need the nourishment that comes from being in

relationship with Him. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we are turning away from the empty promises of the world and turning toward Jesus, the Bread of Life. He alone can fill the emptiness within us, and His satisfaction is not fleeting—it is eternal.

If you've been seeking satisfaction in things that leave you feeling empty, Jesus invites you to come to Him. He is not far off or hard to reach. He offers Himself freely to anyone who will believe in Him. When we trust Him to be the source of our life and hope, we experience a deep and abiding satisfaction that no circumstance can take away. This doesn't mean life will always be easy, but it does mean that we will always have enough because we have Him.

## Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life have you sought satisfaction apart from Jesus?
2. How does Jesus' promise to be the Bread of Life bring hope to your daily walk?
3. What steps can you take to deepen your reliance on Jesus as the source of your fulfillment?

## Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Thank You for the promise that You alone can satisfy the deepest longings of my heart. Forgive me for the times I've sought satisfaction in other things. Help me to come to You daily and to trust You as my source of life and hope. Teach me to rest in Your sufficiency and to find true fulfillment in Your presence. Amen.

## Saturday: Blessed to Be a Blessing

### Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

### Devotional:

As we reflect on the Beatitudes and the blessings Jesus describes, it's important to remember that these blessings are not meant to stop with us. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. His grace and mercy are poured into our lives, not so that we can keep them for ourselves, but so that they can overflow to those around us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:8 that God gives us all that we need—not only for our own sufficiency but so that we can “abound in every good work.” When we hunger and thirst for

righteousness, extend mercy, seek purity of heart, and pursue peace, we become instruments of God's grace in the world. Our lives reflect His character and point others to His kingdom. This is what it means to live as citizens of God's kingdom—we don't just receive His blessings; we share them with others.

Take a moment to consider the ways God has blessed you. Perhaps He's provided you with resources, relationships, or spiritual gifts. How might you use those blessings to serve others? The more we give, the more we realize that God's grace is inexhaustible. As we pour into others, we find that He continually fills us with more of His love, mercy, and joy. In this way, we live out the call of the Beatitudes; not as isolated individuals, but as a community of believers who reflect God's goodness to a world in need.

## Reflection Questions:

1. How has God blessed you in ways that you can share with others?
2. In what areas of your life can you "abound in good works" to bless those around you?
3. How can living out the Beatitudes impact your relationships and your community?

## Prayer:

Father, thank You for the abundant grace You have poured into my life. Help me to see the ways You have blessed me and to use those blessings to serve others. Teach me to live with open hands, ready to share Your love and mercy with those in need. May my life reflect Your goodness and bring glory to Your name. Amen.