



The Good Life

(according to Jesus)

MATTHEW 5:1-10

- **Blessed are the well off and those with ready answers for every spiritual question; they have it all.**
- **Blessed are the comfortable; they shall avoid grief.**
- **Blessed are the self-sufficient; they wait for nothing and have everything they want.**
- **Blessed are those not troubled by the injustices others experience; they are content with realistic expectations.**
- **Blessed are the ones who gain the upper hand; they take full advantage of their advantages.**

- **Blessed are those with a solid public image and a well hidden agenda; they are never exposed and see people in a way that suits their purposes.**
- **Blessed are those who can bully others into agreement; they shall be called empire builders.**
- **Blessed are those who can point to someone else who is a worse person than they are; they will always look good by comparison.**
- **Blessed are you when people praise you, give you preferential treatment, and flatter you because they think you're great. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, because it doesn't get any better than this.**

Matthew 5: 1-10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

**“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 meek,
for they will inherit the earth.**

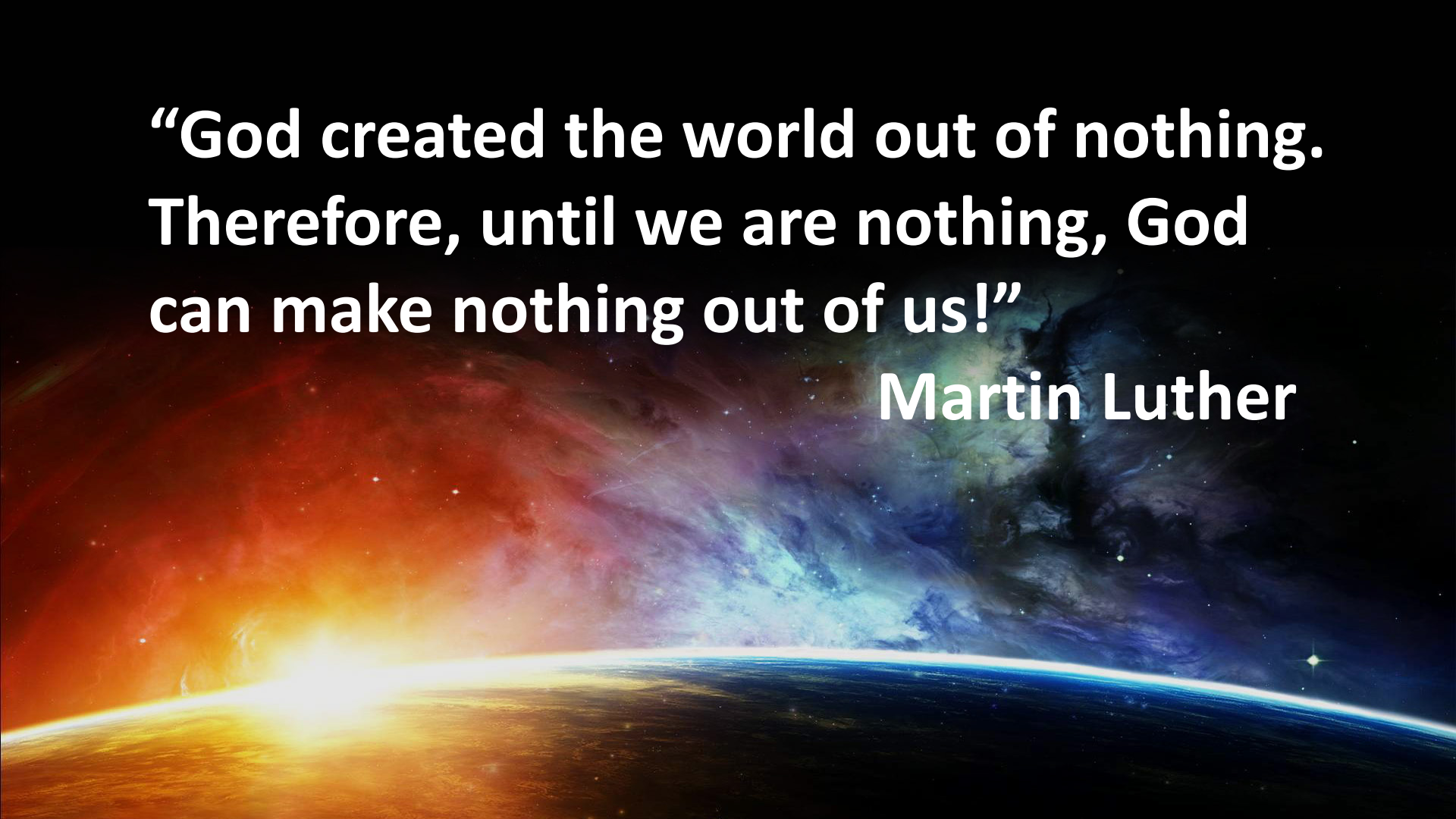
**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.**

**Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**



**“God created the world out of nothing.
Therefore, until we are nothing, God
can make nothing out of us!”**

Martin Luther

Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’





“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ‘I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’”

“It’s the poor before God to whom God can be rich; but those who believe they are rich already, miss out on the Kingdom altogether.”

- **The meek are those who feel no need to claim or demand their rights.**
- **The meek have given up on being approved by the world.**
- **The meek are powerless – so that – they might be filled with the power of God!**

**“Let justice roll down like a river and
righteousness like a never-failing stream!”**

Amos 5:24

“The Lord loves righteousness and justice!”

Psalm 33: 5

**“Righteousness and justice are the foundation
of your throne, O God.” Psalm 89:14**

“More and more I’m coming to believe that this (mercy) is the quality of living we most need to reflect as we reach out to those outside the church and also as we relate to one another within the church – people are dying for mercy”.

Phil Yancey, Vanishing Grace



“The pure in heart are those who have surrendered their hearts completely to Jesus that He might reign in them alone.” Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

**“The pure in heart are single focused and utterly sincere in their devotion to Jesus...they shall see God whose hearts have become a reflection of the image of Christ.”
Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship**

2 Corinthians 5: 18-20

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

“How desperately we need peacemakers! We need them not only in places where wars are being fought or might be fought, but we need them in every home and within each congregation. Even the best and most vital churches suffer from division. And who is the peacemaker who is needed? It is each of us.”

Jim Forrest

