



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Matthew 5: 1-12a

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

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

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God.

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

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

Some things to think about...

- Think about things you do as Mini Vinnies that can be described with the words "merciful", "peacemakers" or other adjectives in this reading.
- Do you always see the impact you have made with these actions?
- As members of the SVP, we do not need to be thanked to keep doing good deeds. Jesus is saying that we might not always have an easy life or have lots of money or power, but God blesses those who are gentle and kind.

## Activities

- Find some Bible passages that show how Jesus stood up for those who needed a helping hand and the outcasts of his time. Share these with the group and discuss ways in which Jesus helped these people and how you can also lend a helping hand.
- Write a prayer as a group asking God to guide you to be the best person you can be and encourage this in others. Say thanks for making you who you are and for the things you have.

## Teacher's Notes

This passage teaches us not to get caught up in the challenges and troubles we face here on Earth; that if we are passionate, dedicated and doing the works of God we can expect challenges; that if we continue to be honest, caring and merciful people, we will enjoy God's kingdom. Find peace in this knowledge!

Think about the ways we are already rewarded in our lives: some things to be thankful for are living freely, our family, our friends and our health. This reading is the start of Jesus' sermon on the mountain. Jesus begins his sermon with a series of blessings.

Sometimes life can be hard and we experience difficulty, but this scripture reminds us that as believers we are blessed at every season, the good and challenging days. With our faith we are able to get through these times, strengthened by the hope that Jesus gives us. As Mini Vinnies members and young Christians we work with people in need. As we serve people we are living out this scripture by being a blessing to others. When we donate toys or food to charity we are not able to hear the recipient say 'thank you'. You don't need to worry if people might not recognise or know of the good deeds you have done for them, because God sees your generous act and will reward you.