

Jesus taught us how to live.

He demonstrated how we are to live by His life.

Through the power of the resurrection,

we're able to live as Jesus did.

Because of Jesus' atonement and resurrection,

He is the door which leads into a relationship with the Father...

and a new way of living.

It's now truly possible to live differently, to actually become better people, and to become good people from whom good things naturally flow.

I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Philippians 3:10-12 (Today's NIV. ©2005)

As you go through the devotions this week, refer to this scripture each day. Ask yourself, "What do I need to take hold of?" "Am I living differently because of this?"

DAY 1
BLESSED are the poor in spirit.

READ John 20:1-2.

BECAUSE JESUS WAS POOR IN SPIRIT, OURS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

What does being given the kingdom of heaven mean to you?

DAY 2
BLESSED are those who mourn.
BLESSED are the meek.

READ John 20: 11-16.

BECAUSE JESUS MOURNED, WE WILL BE COMFORTED.
BECAUSE JESUS WAS MEEK, WE WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

How does understanding that you are comforted, impact your life?

How does that change things like fear, worry, and/or doubt?



BLESS'ED are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

READ John 20: 2-9.

BECAUSE JESUS WAS HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, WE WILL BE FILLED.

What are the things you hunger and thirst for?



BLESSED are the merciful.
BLESSED are the peacemakers.
BLESSED are the pure in heart.

READ John 20: 16b-17.

BECAUSE JESUS WAS MERCIFUL, WE'RE SHOWN MERCY. BECAUSE JESUS WAS PURE IN HEART, WE WILL SEE GOD. BECAUSE JESUS WAS A PEACEMAKER,

WE ARE CALLED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD.

When was the last time you showed mercy to someone?

Is there someone to whom you need to show mercy?



BLESSED are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.
BLESSED are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you.

READ John 20:18.

BECAUSE JESUS WAS PERSECUTED FOR HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,
WE'RE GIVEN CITIZENSHIP IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BECAUSE JESUS WAS INSULTED AND PERSECUTED
WITH ALL KINDS OF EVIL WERE FALSELY SPOKEN AGAINST HIM,
WE CAN REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE WE HAVE A GREAT
REWARD IN HEAVEN, JUST LIKE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
KNOWN AND FOLLOWED HIM BEFORE US.

April 23/24, 2011