



TIMELESS TRUTH TRANSCRIPTS
April 2009 – Florence

How would you like to have been present at Jesus' first recorded sermon? Well, you still can, in a way, by going to Matthew 5:3-10. This passage is commonly known as the Beatitudes which mean "beautiful words". Here, Jesus is painting a portrait of his followers in eight broad brush-strokes. The first four descriptions are mainly God-focused or vertical. The latter four descriptions relate mainly to how we interact with others, so they would be horizontal. Put the vertical and the horizontal together and what do you get? A cross! You know, it shouldn't surprise us that the beatitude lifestyle is cross-shaped. In Luke 9:23, Jesus talks about taking up our cross each day and following him. He never said it would be easy to follow him, but he did promise amazing rewards for those who do. Check these out in Matthew 5:3-10. This is Florence MacKenzie at Equipped for Living.

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Hi, this is James MacKenzie at Equipped for Living. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt God telling you to do something, yet you were afraid to do it? Gideon, who we read about in the Old Testament book of Judges, was hiding down a hole when an angel addressed him as "mighty warrior". Well, he didn't seem much like a mighty warrior at that moment! Yet God could see the potential in Gideon if he was only willing to be obedient. But God knew that he was scared stiff and made allowance for this in three ways. Firstly, he allowed Gideon to carry out his initial task – destroying his father's idol – under cover of darkness. Secondly, God agreed twice to Gideon's request for a "fleece sign". Finally, God allowed him to overhear the enemy recounting a dream which clearly foretold Gideon's victory. Sometimes, we may feel fearful as we contemplate our own weakness and the difficulties facing us, yet God often overlooks our fear as long as we are willing to obey. Obedience from a willing heart is what God seeks – even if we are scared stiff!

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