



Sermon: *A New Humanity*

Text: *Matthew 5.1-7*

Preacher: *Gustavo Formenti*

Sermon question - "What kind of children are produced when the Father chooses to pour his love on them?" In other words, "What do the children of God look like?"

Introductory questions - The idea of pronouncing someone blessed goes far back into the OT.

1. Read Genesis 12.1-9. How did the Lord promise to bless Abraham? How would the world then be blessed through Abraham?
2. Read Psalm 34.8; 41.1; 146.5-6; 84.4-5. Who are the people called "blessed" in these Psalms?

Reflection questions -

1. How does our normal description of the blessed or fortunate person compare with those Jesus considers blessed (vv. 1-12)?
2. To be "poor in spirit" (v.3) is to acknowledge our spiritual poverty, our bankruptcy before God. Why is this an indispensable condition for receiving the kingdom of heaven? Why is it so difficult for us to admit our spiritual poverty?
3. Read Isaiah 61.1. Why do you think the gospel is good news to the poor?
4. Why would those who are poor in spirit feel a need to mourn (v.4)?
5. Those who mourn feel sorrow not only for their own sin but also for the sin they see around them. What have you heard in the news lately that causes you to mourn?
6. How do you think those who mourn will be comforted (v.4)?
7. Read Psalm 32. How's mourning over sin and the comfort of God's forgiveness related?
8. How would a true estimate of ourselves (vv.3-4) lead us to be "meek" - to have a humble and gentle attitude to others (v.5)?
9. Read Psalm 37.1-11. Where do you see meekness (or humility) expressed in this passage?
10. Is it surprising that the meek will inherit the earth?
11. How would this spiritual condition and attitude move us to hunger and thirst for righteousness (v.6)?