

## From the Message: Our Reaction to the Resurrection

A paraphrase of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" by Steve Leach

- We could see that it's the "poor in spirit" who have the Kingdom of Heaven. That we could take a step toward becoming the kind of people who are secure enough to see our own poverty and brokenness before God, and yet not hide or deny them. We could begin to see that poverty is, or at least can be, a teacher rather than something to be feared or shamed.
- We could see that those who "mourn", those who are literally in mourning, and those who are grieved by how things sometimes are in this world and in us, will be comforted. We could take steps to become the kind of people who do the deep spiritual work of mourning; who are transformed by it and who become good at helping others do the work of mourning in their lives.
- We could see that it is the "meek", the humble, who are the hope of the world and who inherit the earth – not the aggressive, pushy, power hungry types who grasp to protect power and position at the expense of others. We could take a step toward becoming the kind of servants and leaders who do not lord power over others, but are learning to be compassionate, merciful, patient servants to those we are responsible for.
- We could see that those who search for and desire things to be on earth as they are in heaven actually live full lives. We could take steps to become the kind of people who more and more do the right thing and who live out Jesus' teaching not through some new set of rules and concepts to live up to, but the kind of people who at a heart level begin to live in harmony with Jesus and how his Kingdom is.
- We could begin to see that merciful people experience great mercy. We could become merciful people who care deeply and are cared for deeply. We could take steps to become the kind of people who are learning to

relate to others with great love, compassion, and mercy, because that's how God is.

- We could begin to see that purity of heart is not mere moralism, it's the spiritual work of having our hearts cleansed of pride, judgmentalism, and hypocrisy. We could take steps to be on a journey with God that transforms us over time to become people who are pure in heart – and see God.
- We could begin to see that it is those who live in, make, and bring peace to others that are the children of God. That to deny Christ as the Prince of Peace, here and now, is to work against the full reign of Christ. We could take steps to become people of peace wherever we are.
- We could begin to see that it is those who are persecuted, who suffer for living Jesus' teaching, they're the ones who experience and live in the Kingdom of Heaven now. We could take steps to become the kind of people who live out Jesus' teaching, reorienting our lives around His teaching without the need to protect or secure our rights.
- We could help make things better, help make people's lives better by being salt, flavor, healing, and the goodness of light to the dark places in us, others, and this world.
- We could see and become the kind of people who help others see what God, through His law, was trying to say all along. We could begin to see that God is like Jesus, and Jesus is like how He lived and what He taught.
- We could become people who are taking steps to put away anger, contempt, bitterness, superiority, and begin to see our hearts shaped to fit in the Kingdom of Heaven rather than being shaped for judgment and Hell.
- We could take steps in becoming worshippers at a heart level. People who are aware of their own issues and sin, and become people who are not only forgiven, but are becoming more forgiving people.

- We could see the beauty of purity, the reality of sin's impact and the loss of integrity. We could become people who uphold commitments, live justly, and demonstrate truth with great love and mercy.
- We could begin to see the power of sacrificial love and forgiveness. Become people who are putting away retribution and retaliation for the honor of loving and serving even those we disagree with or who attack us and ours.
- We could begin to see the beauty of generosity and stewardship. We could become people who live generously, who are stewards rather than owners. We could become servants at a heart level who invite others into what we have and who we are.
- We could become people who see and begin to live with authenticity before God and others – we could put away trumpeting our own morality and the smallness of vilifying others.
- We could be taking steps to become people of prayer, and be changed by it, formed by it, directed by it, deepened by it.
- We could begin to see the miracle and power of being able to call God Father. We could become children who are asked to express our deepest selves to a Father who cares and acts.
- We could take steps to be a part of helping usher in the ways of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.
- We could become people who live with great grace, trust, faith, and dependence on God. People who are seeking to put away worry and discovering God is good, trustworthy, and for us. We could begin to see we are loved.

- We could become wise people who choose a way that at first is narrow, less chosen, difficult, but opens up as we go and discover Jesus' way truly does become life-giving.
- We could avoid the way of the mob or crowd, the path that at first is easy and seems to offer freedom but closes in and destroys our lives.
- We could become the kind of people who have so many experiences with Jesus that we develop genuine faith, a faith that holds when the storms of life come against us.
- We could begin to see the deception of trusting simply in our knowledge of Jesus and the bible, or the busyness of doing stuff for Him. We could become the kind of people Jesus knows and who know Jesus and are becoming more like Him.