

Weekly Message Study Guide

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Communion Sunday | July 11

Classic: Rev. Rick Glyman | Contemporary: Rev. Tara Beth Leach

On this communion Sunday, as we reflect on our privilege to experience communion together let us consider the DEPENDENCE that is represented. In fact, if we are honest, we are utterly dependent on God. This week we are reminded of that from two different directions. We start below with Pastor TaraBeth Leach leading us through Jesus' teaching of the Beatitudes followed by Pastor Rick Glyman reminding us through the "Top Ten." Both point to the provision made for us by God in Jesus' death and resurrection followed by providing a Counsellor to guide us.

[Following is in reference to Pastor Tara Beth's message in Contemporary]

• If you listened to Pastor Tara Beth's message, share two or three formational points that you've been thinking about or that stood out to you.

The Kingdom of God is at hand (Matt 4:17) Read Matt 4:23-5:10.

- Who is Jesus talking to and teaching?
- Why, so early in his ministry, does Jesus have crowds of people listening to him?
- Read Matthew 7:28-29. What are your conclusions about the beginning of Jesus' ministry?
- What is the biblical meaning of "Blessed"?
- What is the attitude of "poor in spirit?" What is the opposite of being poor in spirit? How would you relate poor in spirit to humility?

CONFESSIONS OF DEPENDENCE: If you are in a group have someone prayerfully read each beatitude and description below and then together, as a group respond after each one by saying, "I depend on you." If you are doing this study on your own, pray through these in a similar fashion to declare your dependence upon Jesus.

- **Poor in spirit** – I can do what I can do but it is trivial compared to what you can do...I depend on you.
- **Mourn** – it is out of my control, I can't fix it, it breaks my heart that it is happening...I depend on you
- **Meek** – I have tried to live out of power and found that I fall short, your power is forever...I depend on you
- **Hunger and thirst for the right and the good**, (thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven) – my desire is for that good but I cannot attain it...I depend on you.

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- **Merciful** (do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God) – as I seek the wisdom to see just mercy and do it...I depend on you.
 - **Pure in Heart** – my heart is not pure, Lord would you make it so...I depend on you.
 - **Peacemakers** – I want peace unless it costs me, then I am conflicted, I fall short...I depend on you.
 - **Persecuted for righteousness** – I flounder to be your righteousness, I try and fail and fold in the face of persecution...I depend on you
- Which of these ways of dependence come the easiest to you? Which takes more effort? Why?

[Following is in reference to Pastor Rick Glyman's message in Classic]

- If you listened to Pastor Rick's message share two or three formational points that you've been thinking about or that stood out to you.

ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE: Read Exodus 20:1-17

- How does each grouping of laws relate to the specific relationship? How would you describe that grouping in your own words?
 - Laws 1-4—relationship to God
 - Laws 5 & 7—relationship in Family
 - Laws 8 & 10—relationship to Others Property
 - Laws 6 & 9—relationship to Other People

Read Matthew 5:21-24

- Where is the focus of Jesus in these verses?
 - Is that harder or easier to live up to? Why?
- ***Share with each other your experience with Communion. Memories? Feelings? Any special personal rituals or practices? Questions?***

In view of our dependence upon God and having just received communion this past weekend close your time by praying together this prayer by Soren Kierkegaard,

Don't hold my sins against me, but hold me up against my sins. When my soul becomes aware of You and each time I am awakened, may I be reminded not of my sin but of Your forgiveness.