



**"Blessed to be a Blessing"**

Luke 1:5-55



LIBERTY FILMS INC.

Presents  
**Frank  
CAPRA'S**

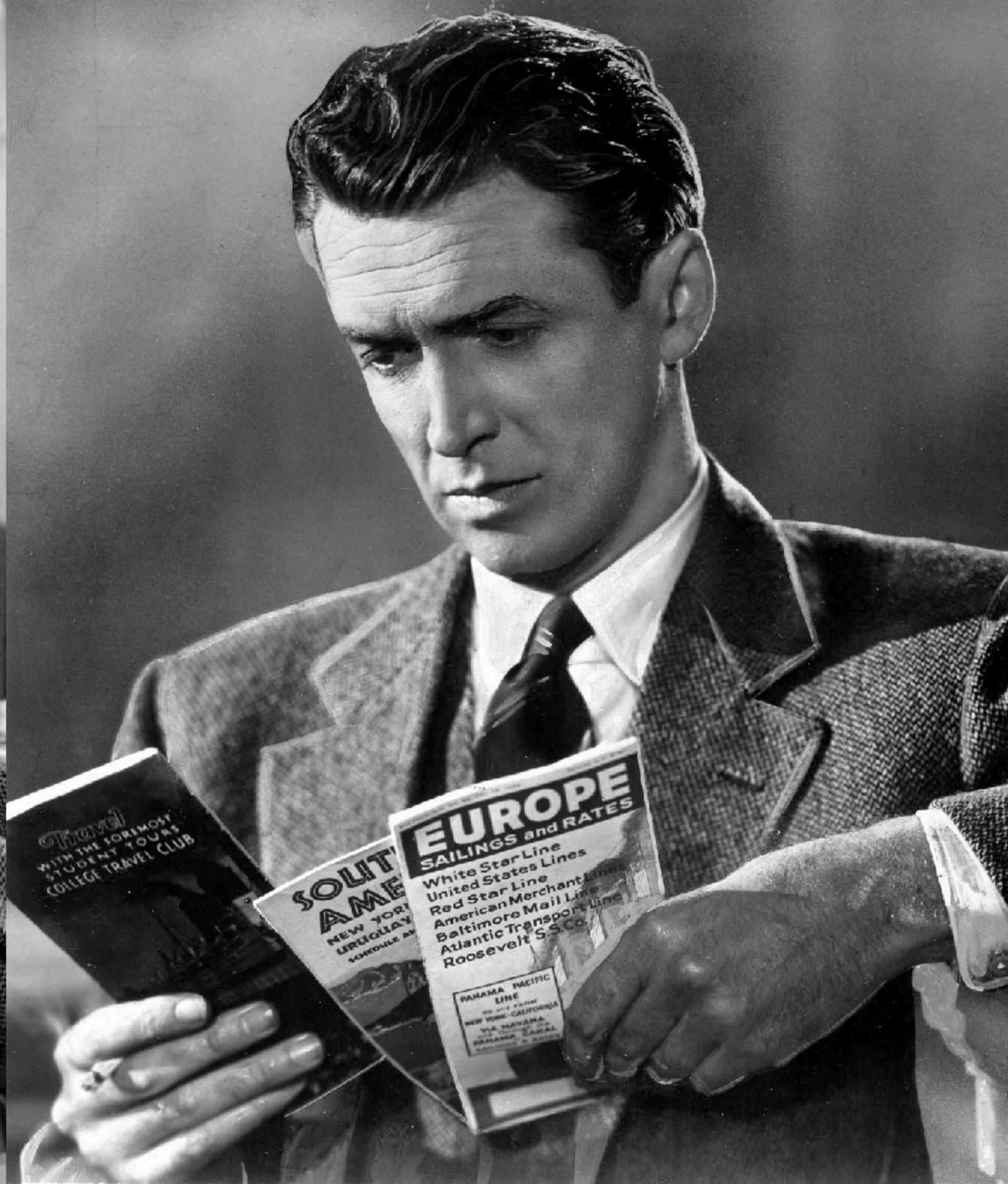
**"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"**

starring  
**James  
STEWART**  
and  
**Donna REED**

LIONEL BARRYMORE · THOMAS MITCHELL · HENRY TRAVERS ·  
BEULAH BONDI · WARD BOND · FRANK FAYLEN · GLORIA GRAHAME  
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY **FRANK CAPRA**

Screen Play by FRANCES GOODRICH · ALBERT HACKETT · FRANK CAPRA - Additional Scenes by JO SWERLING - Released by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.











1940



1940



1946







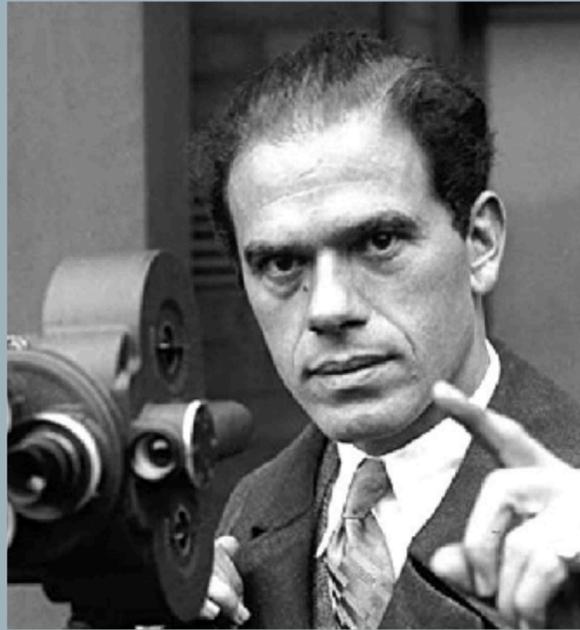






*It's a  
Wonderful  
Life*





Frank  
Capra

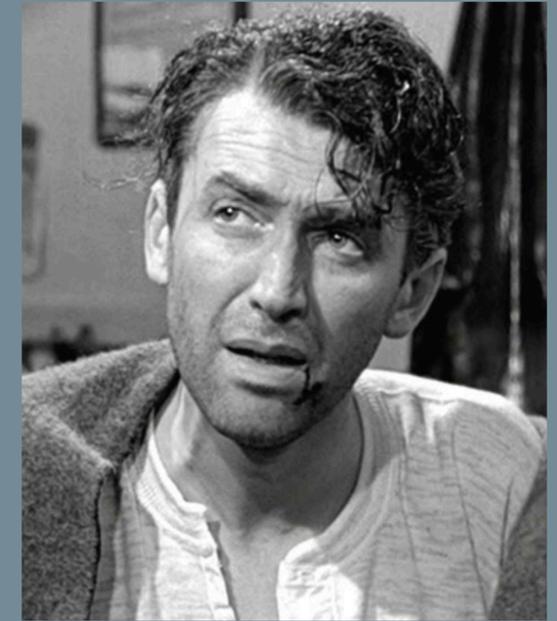
"[This film] wasn't made for the oh-so-bored critics, or the oh-so-jaded literati...[but is a] film that said to the downtrodden, the pushed-around, the pauper, 'Heads up, fella.' ... a film that expressed its love for the homeless and the loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores."

# Blessed are...

(Matt 5:3-12)



- ◆ the mourning
- ◆ the meek
- ◆ the merciful
- ◆ the hungry & thirsty
- ◆ the poor in spirit
- ◆ the pure in heart
- ◆ the peacemakers
- ◆ the persecuted



Blessed are...  
(Matt 5:3-12)

**"The Broken"**

- ◆ the mourning
- ◆ the meek
- ◆ the merciful
- ◆ the hungry & thirsty
- ◆ the poor in spirit
- ◆ the pure in heart
- ◆ the peacemakers
- ◆ the persecuted

## **"The Broken"**

- ◆ the mourning
- ◆ the meek
- ◆ the merciful
- ◆ the hungry & thirsty
- ◆ the poor in spirit
- ◆ the pure in heart
- ◆ the peacemakers
- ◆ the persecuted

## **"The Blessed..."**

- ...will be comforted
- ...will inherit the earth
- ...will be shown mercy
- ...will be filled
- ...given kingdom of heaven
- ...will see God
- ...called children of God
- ...given kingdom of heaven

Luke  
1:5-55

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Luke  
1:5-55

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

Luke  
1:5-55

But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke  
1:5-55

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

Luke  
1:5-55

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke  
1:5-55

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Luke  
1:5-55

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed:

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Luke  
1:5-55

Luke  
1:5-55

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."



# The Similarities



**Zechariah**

- ◆ overwhelmed by fear (Lk 1:12, 29)
- ◆ assured by Gabriel (Lk 1:13, 30)
- ◆ given name of child (Lk 1:13, 31)
- ◆ work of the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:15, 35)
- ◆ respond with a question (Lk 1:18, 34)
- ◆ worship God (Lk 1:68-79, 46-55)



**Mary**

# The Differences



**Zechariah**



**Mary**

- ✦ old man
- ✦ religious leader (priest)
- ✦ power and influence
- ✦ responds with unbelief
- ✦ rebuked for lack of faith
- ✦ muted until child is born

- ✦ young girl
- ✦ ordinary lay person
- ✦ poor and unknown
- ✦ responds with faith
- ✦ commended for her faith
- ✦ sings the *Magnificat*

# The Differences



**Zechariah**

“How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”



**Mary**

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

# The Differences



**Zechariah**

"How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

"...and now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because **you did not believe my words**, which will come true at their appointed time."



**Mary**

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

**"Blessed is she who has believed** that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

# The Differences



**Zechariah**

- ✦ old man
- ✦ religious leader (priest)
- ✦ power and influence
- ✦ responds with incredulity
- ✦ rebuked for lack of faith
- ✦ muted until child is born



**Mary**

- ✦ young girl
- ✦ ordinary lay person
- ✦ poor and unknown
- ✦ responds with faith
- ✦ commended for her faith
- ✦ sings the *Magnificat*

# "Brokenness"

- ◆ the mourning
- ◆ the meek
- ◆ the merciful
- ◆ the hungry & thirsty
- ◆ the poor in spirit
- ◆ the pure in heart
- ◆ the peacemakers
- ◆ the persecuted



**FAITH**

# "Blessedness"

- ...will be comforted
- ...will inherit the earth
- ...will be shown mercy
- ...will be filled
- ... kingdom of heaven
- ...will see God
- ...called children of God
- ... kingdom of heaven

Blessed are those who, in their  
brokenness, turn to God in faith.

Luke  
1:5-55

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

## **"The Broken"**

- ◆ the mourning
- ◆ the meek
- ◆ the merciful
- ◆ the hungry & thirsty
- ◆ the poor in spirit
- ◆ the pure in heart
- ◆ the peacemakers
- ◆ the persecuted

## **"The Blessed..."**

- ...will be comforted
- ...will inherit the earth
- ...will be shown mercy
- ...will be filled
- ...given kingdom of heaven
- ...will see God
- ...called children of God
- ...given kingdom of heaven

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "...my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior, for he has  
(Lk 1:47-48) been mindful of the **humble state** of his servant."

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "...my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the **humble state** of his servant."  
(Lk 1:47-48)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be **comforted**."  
(Mt 5:4)

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "...my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the **humble state** of his servant."  
(Lk 1:47-48)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be **comforted**."  
(Mt 5:4)

**Mary:** "...His **mercy** extends to those who **fear** him, from generation to generation..."  
(Lk 1:50)

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "...my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the **humble state** of his servant."  
(Lk 1:47-48)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be **comforted**."  
(Mt 5:4)

**Mary:** "...His **mercy** extends to those who **fear** him, from generation to generation..."  
(Lk 1:50)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be shown **mercy**."  
(Mt 5:7)

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
(Lk 1:52) but has lifted up the **humble (meek).**"

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the **humble (meek)**."  
(Lk 1:52)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth."  
(Mt 5:5)

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the **humble (meek)**."  
(Lk 1:52)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth."  
(Mt 5:5)

**Mary:** "He has **filled the hungry** with good things but has sent the rich away empty."  
(Lk 1:53)

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:** "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the **humble (meek)**."  
(Lk 1:52)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth."  
(Mt 5:4)

**Mary:** "He has **filled the hungry** with good things but has sent the rich away empty."  
(Lk 1:53)

**Jesus:** "Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, for they will be **filled**."  
(Mt 5:6)

# "Blessed..."

**Mary:**

(Lk 1:54-55)

"He has helped his servant **Israel**, remembering to be merciful to **Abraham and his descendants forever**, just as **he promised our ancestors.**"

# "Blessed..."

## **Mary:**

(Lk 1:54-55)

"He has helped his servant **Israel**, remembering to be merciful to **Abraham and his descendants forever**, just as **he promised our ancestors.**"

## **Jesus:**

(Mt 5:9-10)

"Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called **children of God**. Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**"



# "Blessed..."

## **Mary:**

(Lk 1:54-55)

"He has helped his servant **Israel**, remembering to be merciful to **Abraham and his descendants forever**, just as **he promised our ancestors.**"

## **Jesus:**

(Mt 5:9-10)

"Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called **children of God**. Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**"

Genesis  
12:2-3

"I will make you into a great nation,  
and **I will bless you**; I will make your  
name great, and you will be a  
blessing....and **all peoples on earth**  
**will be blessed through you.**"

Exodus  
19:5-6

Now if you obey me fully and **keep my covenant**, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will **be for me a kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.'

Blessed are those who, in their  
brokenness, turn to God in faith;  
for they will be used by God to  
bless the world.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it **finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.**" After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine **until the kingdom of God comes.**"

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Luke  
22:14-20





“Our suffering must appear as if we live a cursed life, however, we see it as a blessing because it is a shortcut to the Father.”

God seeks out broken people of faith,  
not only because the kingdom of heaven  
**belongs to** such as these, but because  
the kingdom of heaven will **advance** on  
earth **through** such as these.