



Jesus Teaches: The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

Gus rode proudly to the main gate that led to the King's garden and dismounted from his horse, Duncan. He had once again been appointed to guard the castle gates and this morning he had been given his first week's pay, three shiny gold coins! Gus was determined that today no one would pass through these gates without his permission. Suddenly he heard an unfamiliar voice crying out for help. As he glanced around he saw what seemed to be an old woman limping up the walkway and calling for help. "Hark!" He cried, "A cry for help! Who goes there?"

"It is moi', an old woman who is injured," came the reply. "If only there was a Knight-in-training who could 'alp me!"

"I am a Knight-in-training!" shouted Gus, "I shall help you!"

Quick as a flash Robespierre threw off his cloak and drew his sword, "Hand over all your gold, you silly knight!" he called triumphantly.

"Robespierre," Gus cried, "I thought you were a damsel in distress!"

"No, I am Robespierre in this dress!" he said pointing to his disguise.

Gus immediately drew his own weapon and the two men crossed swords. Robespierre, being at heart a coward, tried to run away but Gus chased him and arrested him.

"Now Robespierre," said Gus as he took a length of rope off of Duncan's saddle, "I shall tie you up and make you listen to this story!"

"Is it "Goodnight, Moon?" asked Robespierre. "Zat one is my favorite!"

"No, it is God's Word," said Gus. He removed the Bible from its special window. Suddenly Rufus appeared and began to bark. "What's that, Rufus? Do you want to suggest a story?" Rufus tossed a stuffed bumblebee out of the window. "A bee? Which Bible story has bees in it?" Rufus barked louder and louder.

"Wow, that dragon is really giving you some attitude!" said Robespierre.

"Attitude? That's it!" shouted Gus. "The Beatitudes! Thank you, Rufus!"

"Qu'est-ce que c'est? What is Le Beatitudes?" Robespierre asked.

"The Beatitudes were special blessings for the Kingdom of God that Jesus shared with His followers!" Gus explained. "Like this one, 'Blessed are those who mourn...'"
"What does this mean, to mourn?" Robespierre interrupted.

"It's when we are feeling very sad," Gus answered.

Robespierre opened his eyes wide. "Oh my, these are very unusual blessings! How is it a blessing to be sad?"

"Well, let me finish and I'll tell you!" Gus exclaimed. "Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'"

Robespierre smiled. "Ah, comfort is good." Gus was so busy reading the scripture that he never noticed that Robespierre was slowly untying himself.

Gus nodded. "There are other ones, too. Like this one: 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'"

"Who are the meek?" Robespierre asked.

"The meek are people who are gentle and do not get angry quickly," Gus explained.

A look of concern spread over Robespierre's face. "Why do they get to inherit the earth?" he asked.

"Because, the bible says so," Gus replied.

"But what about me? I'm not meek! I'm loud and boisterous and very French! What do I get to inherit?" He asked.

"I don't know. These blessings are for the righteous." Gus replied.

"Do you mean people who are always trying to do the right thing?" Robespierre interrupted to ask.

"Exactly! That is me!" said Gus. "I'm trying to do the right thing and follow Jesus! The Bible says: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled!'"

"Filled? Filled with what?" Robespierre asked.

"Filled with doing what's right in God's eyes, filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with a heart that follows after God!" Gus answered.

Robespierre looked amazed. "So, if I understand these "Beatitudes" correctly, they are blessings from your King," he said as he began winding the rope around Gus. "Whenever His followers do what King Jesus would have done, He blesses them greatly."

"Yes," Gus replied, "sometimes these blessings come to us here on earth and sometimes they come later in heaven. In fact, Jesus said: 'Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in Heaven!'"

"Well good!" Robespierre grinned. "Since you get a reward in heaven you won't be needing this bag of gold!" With a flourish Robespierre snatched Gus's hard earned pay.

"My gold! Robespierre you give that back at once! I need that!"

"What's that? So sorry, I would love to stay and chat," Robespierre giggled, "but I can see you are tied up at the moment. Ta-ta my silly friend!" And with a crazy laugh he ran away into the woods.

"Wait! Come back!" Gus shouted after him, "Untie me, you scoundrel! This is no way to treat a knight-in-training!" Gus turned sadly and spoke to his horse. "Oh Duncan, I have failed at my training. I have allowed Robespierre to get the best of me, again! Oh, woe is me!"

Duncan whinnied and shook his head in reply.

"What's that, Duncan? You are absolutely right, my faithful steed! I shouldn't feel bad about myself because even if I fail, God still loves me and blesses me. In fact, he has given us "The Beatitudes," which are blessing for all who serve Him! And after all, "Serving the King is the noblest thing!" With that Gus hopped off into the castle courtyard to find someone who could untie him.