

GOSPEL READINGS

G-1

Gospel

Matthew 5: 1–12a

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

¹ Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.

There he sat down and was joined by his disciples.

² Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

³ ‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

⁵ Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

⁶ Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

⁷ Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

⁸ Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

⁹ Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ ‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

Looking at the Text

G-1 Matthew 5:1-12a

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of St Matthew

This is the first of the four gospels, giving an account of Jesus' life and ministry, teaching by word, stories, and example — how to live with others, how to pray, how to grow in wisdom and come close to God. Matthew writes as a Jew for the Jewish Christians in the early days of the Church, proclaiming Jesus as 'Messiah' as the fulfilment of the Old Testament, both the Law and the Prophets.

In this passage

Jesus teaches the crowd about what makes us happy. This teaching is known as 'The Beatitudes', from the word 'blessed' or being 'supremely happy'! As 'attitudes' or 'ways of being', they offer great advice for married couples. Jesus shows us how to live life to the full, perhaps in surprising ways. He says that real happiness comes through loving in a totally unselfish way, seeking the good of the other, in all times and circumstances. Happiness is rooted in being unmaterialistic, being kind, compassionate, generous, gentle and loving. It is a thirst for making decisions carefully together based on wanting to do 'the right thing'. It is discovered through being peacemakers — in your married relationship together, and also being a haven of peace for others who come with their troubles. It is a way of standing firm together, standing up for what you believe, and being there for others, countering loneliness and conflict.

Reflecting on Scripture together

Use the 'Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way' in the introduction 'Choosing your Wedding readings'.

Further Reflection

Following the 'slow reading' process, here are some questions for further reflection:

- Which 'beatitude' catches your attention? What do you like about it?
- Why do you think it's so easy to ignore the advice here?
- Think of a relationship you admire. Can you say which 'beatitude' is at work here? What is it about their life together that you would like to emulate in your own marriage?
- What are the pressures on your relationship? What helps you 'lean in' to your relationship together? How can you make time for one another to enrich and grow your relationship? For example, replacing screen time with a lovely walk together or a date night? Any other ideas?
- How are you at 'making peace' when you've had a row? What helps?
- What do you like about this reading? Why might it be a good choice for your wedding?