

Read John 14:27 (CSB)

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."*

- 6) Why does being a peacemaker start with first having peace in your own heart?
- 7) Why do you think following Jesus inevitably leads to some kind of persecution?

Read James 1:2 (CSB)

*"Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials."*

- 8) What does it mean to consider something? How can we "consider it joy" when we face various trials?
- 9) Is there something that we, as Jesus followers, can do to prepare ourselves for persecution?
- 10) Thinking about all eight of these Beatitudes, what is the single most important thing we can do to be them? What are the rhythms of your life that you have in place to do that? Is there something you need to start or stop to help you get there?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) How is my relationship with Jesus really doing right now? Am I chasing "doing" more than "being"?
- 2) What do I need to stop feeding into my heart through my eyes and ears in order to grow in purity?
- 3) Is there someone I need to intentionally move toward to build a bridge of peace this week, even if it costs me comfort?

## The Simple Gospel

*How do we live it?*

Pastor Justin Orr | September 21, 2025

**Thread:** Living out the Beatitudes only comes from a relationship with Jesus.

"Blessed are" is the Greek word *Makarios*. It means joy, but not a fleeting kind of joy. It's God-like joy because He is the source of it.

*"You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures."* **Psalms 16:11 CSB**

- It's His joy.

*"You give him blessings forever; you cheer him with joy in your presence."* **Psalms 21:6 CSB**

- It's found in His presence because it's His joy.

*"I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."* **John 15:11 CSB**

- He even says it's His joy.

*"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

**Romans 15:13 CSB**

- He feels because it's His joy.

*"Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials..."* **James 1:2 CSB**

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." **Matthew 5:8 CSB**

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* **1 John 1:9 NIV**

- Purity of heart is about confession.

There is a simple truth in this life: what I put into my soul will come out of my soul. What I put into my body will affect my body; how I eat will affect my body. It's the same for the soul.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."*

**Matthew 5:9 CSB**

- I need to be a carrier of peace first before I can be a peacemaker.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

**John 14:27 NIV**

- It's His joy and His peace, and it comes from a relationship with Him.

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs."*

*"You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me."*

*"Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* **Matthew 5:10-12 CSB**

I will eventually be persecuted for this faith. Be prepared and prayed up. Consider it joy because you look like Jesus.

**Challenges:**

- How is your relationship with Jesus?
- Do you need to pay attention to what you consume through your eyes and ears so that you can be purer in heart?
- Is there someone you need to be a peacemaker with?

# Simple Gospel

**Fall 2025 | Week 2**

Message Date 9/21/2025

## MY STORY

- 1) What's the best meal you've ever made where you knew you got it just right?
- 2) Have you ever left "meat on the bone" in life or faith — missing something God had for you because you stopped short?

## QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

## DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Read 1 John 1:9 (CSB)

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

- 4) Why is confession so key for purity of heart?
- 5) One of the things that Pastor Justin talked about was the things that we watch and listen to can contaminate our hearts. What are the types of things that this would include? Are there things that you call guilty pleasures that land on this list? How does it impact your heart?