

Come and See: the Beatitudes

Transcript, episode one 'your best life'

<https://youtu.be/lStGL3Hoz9c>

What does it look like when you are living your best life?

Jesus came some 2000 years ago. And during his life on earth, He preached a sermon called the Sermon on the Mount, in which he gives his disciples his vision for how we should all be living our best lives.



At the beginning of the sermon, Jesus teaches eight ways that describe his kingdom values to live by. Each way is called a beatitude. The Beatitudes were at the very heart of Jesus' ministry on earth.

As Christians, when you and I live by Jesus' vision and values in the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us we are blessed. When you and I live by the Beatitudes, we shine out into the world for Jesus.

The 2023 Oscar ceremony is coming up soon in March. And it's one of the award ceremonies that I always look forward to. I, along with millions of other people, will wait up to find out who has won the highest awards that are given in filmmaking this year.

Oscar night is very glamorous affair, with a red carpet being walked by many A-List celebrities beforehand. A-list celebrities like Brad Pitt, or Zendaya, Beyonce, Jennifer Lopez and Harry Styles all come wearing fabulous jewelry and fashion.

These people shine out on the red carpet, on Oscar night, and they shine out in our world. Who is your favorite A-List celebrity, and why?

My favorite would be Beyonce, because she's such an amazing singer and dancer.

Many of these A-List celebrities are admired because they are successful and talented, or good looking, or rich or funny. Or all of the above. That's because we value reward these things in our culture. That's why they shine out in the world.

Jesus' vision for how his followers can shine out in the world, though, is very different. Those who shine out for him are the ones who try to live by the Beatitudes. So they're the ones who don't big themselves up. But put other people first. Who feel compassion for the world and do their part to make it better. Who aren't troublemakers, but look to bring peace wherever they are. Who know they mess up and can say sorry, and can also forgive others.

And they know they can't do any of that without God. They know they need God in their lives. It is these people who try to live by the Beatitudes who shine out in the world for Jesus. They are Jesus' A-Listers.

If you were to give an award to someone in your life, may be someone in your family, or a friend, or a teacher who really shines out in the world for you and makes your world a better place. Who would it be and why?

I would give an award to a lady called Suzie, who was a carer for my friend after she had a stroke in 2016. She shone out to me in so many ways. But just because she made my friend's life so much better in the little things like trips out for her and in the big things, keeping her healthy and keeping her hopeful. She was so patient and humble. And she knew that the only way that she could do her work so well because God helped her she knew she needed God in her life.

It's not easy to live the way Jesus teaches us in the Beatitudes. But seeing glimpses of it in other people reminds us it's the only true way to shine out in the world and live a happy, purposeful and fulfilling life. Now that's living your best past life!

So let's find out more about the Beatitudes. Come and See.