



Come and See: the Beatitudes

Transcript, episode two: The mirror

[Come and See: Week 2 - The mirror](#)

There's a musical that I really like called Hadestown. It's a modern retelling of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, and in it Orpheus is described as having the ability to make you see the world the way that it was supposed to be, in spite of the way that it is.

Now, I really like this idea because I think that it's an idea that Jesus spoke a lot about. There are so many different areas of life where there is a disconnect between our expectations of the way things should be and the shortfall of the reality of these same situations.

Sometimes this can be situations in the world where we experience this gap, such as the climate, poverty, slavery, racism, sexism, ableism or even war.

Sometimes it's the situations in our community that we face where we experience this disconnect. Things like bullying or favouritism, being isolated, being treated unfairly or being accused of something you didn't do. Maybe it's a class being punished for the actions of just a few, or even just seeing someone who puts their own needs above the needs of others by pushing in a queue or not cleaning up a mess that they've made.

I remember a time when I was in school, we were hanging out in our form room before school started and some of my friends were passing a football between them. One of them thought it'd be funny to boot the ball, and it went into the ceiling just as a teacher happened to be walking past.

My friend was promptly sent out of the room to be spoken to, but then the teacher sent me out as well. I was really confused because I hadn't been involved and I didn't know why I'd been sent out. When I asked the teacher why he'd sent me out he just told me, 'it never seems to be you but you're always there.' I felt like this was really unjust and I shouldn't be unpunished when, by the teacher's own admission, I hadn't even been involved. Clearly it's something that I still haven't got over.

What are some ways that you've experienced this gap between the way things are and the way things should be?

In all of these ways and so many more, we can experience this gap between the way the world is and the way that we feel it was made to be. I think this is because we have a soul, or a spirit, that has a sense of how the world was meant to be, and when that's not the reality we experience this anger that bubbles up through this gap.

Nowhere, however, is this disconnect more evident than when we're dealing with ourselves.

Christians believe that Jesus gave us a list of virtues that, if we live them out, would lead to blessing in our lives and the lives of others; a list that's commonly called the Beatitudes.

Listening to these things now, it can feel really difficult to prioritise them because while they are things that Jesus prioritised, they're not necessarily the things that the world prioritises and therefore not what we often live out in our own lives.

The world we live in makes us believe we need to live a certain way, but when Jesus gave us the Beatitudes, he did it in order to call us back to how he believes we're supposed to live.

So when the world says 'successful are the determined for theirs will be the reward,' Jesus says 'blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

When the world says 'successful are those who struggle by themselves for they will greatly achieve', Jesus says 'blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.'

When the world says 'successful are the forceful for they will be heard', Jesus says 'blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.'

When the world says 'successful are those whose hunger is never stated for they will keep wanting more', Jesus says 'blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.'

When the world says 'successful are those who judge others for they will be revered', Jesus says 'blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.'

When the world says 'successful are the charismatic for they will be adored', Jesus says 'blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.'

And when the world says 'successful are the rich and powerful for they will have all the authority', Jesus said 'blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.'

When the world says 'successful are those who never stop working for they will gain many riches', Jesus says 'blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

Christians believe that there is a wide gap between the people we are and the people God calls us to be.

Wrong things that we do and say shape us over time; they widen this gap in our lives, and often without realising that God is on the other side of this chasm that is created, until we feel completely and utterly unworthy of God's love for us.

We know what we should do, but so often we fail to do it, and we end up not being able to see God's vision for what we could be, but realising we fall very short of who we're called to be.

How do we live with those wrong choices? Well the good news is that Jesus came to help close this gap and draw us close back to God and the way things are supposed to be.

We're going to think about this idea a little bit next time. Why don't you come and see?
Thanks for listening.