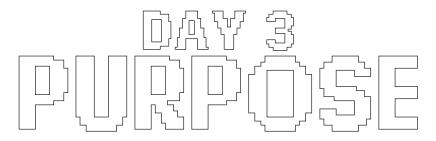
# PIRSII WEEK





# Matthew 5:1-16 NIV

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **OBSERVATION**

God has called you by name to live according to His plan and purpose. Jesus said that "His sheep follow Him because they know His voice. But they will never follow a stranger" (John 10:4-5). If your next step is uncertain, clear direction can be found in God's Word, through the leaders God has placed in your life, and by the discernment of the Holy Spirit within you.

### APPLICATION

- 1. What decisions are you making right now that will impact your future? Do these decisions align with God's purpose for your life? How will your plans impact others for the cause of Christ?
- 2. What opportunities are in your hand right now that God may be asking you to step into? Have you brought these decisions and opportunities before God in prayer?
- 3. Have you shared the decisions and opportunities ahead of you with a trusted leader so they can help bring perspective and vision? What about your dreams?

### **PRAYER**

My Lord and Savior, thank you for calling me by your name and setting my life apart for your purpose. Help me hear the leading of your voice and give me courage to walk in obedience as I take my next step. I ask you to align my will with yours in every area of my life. Give me clean hands and pure hearted motives. Reveal in a greater way your plans for me. Today, I choose to be faithful with what you have placed in my hand, and I believe that you are faithful to bring to pass the dreams you have placed in my heart. Amen.

### PRAYER FOCUS

- For an increase of discernment to see the God-opportunities in front of me
- For people in our community to come alive to God's purpose for their life
- For the good news of Jesus Christ to be shared with all people
- For our church to shine brightly in every part of our city

## **BLESSING**

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy. For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love.

-Psalm 5:11-12 NLT