



*“Patience with others is love,  
patience with self is hope,  
patience with God is faith.”*  
—Adel Bestavros



Quiet prayer time is at 7:00 am and 9:00 pm. Other Quakers are also praying at these same times. “Be still and know...”

Howard County Public Library Main Branch

Genealogy Short Class, July 9th., 6:00-7 pm

How to Use Quaker Records

Online registration KHCPL.org under “Events”



The May 9th. Chicken or Beef and Noodle has been postponed until further notice.

### **Patience is a Virtue**

This age-old refrain of young travelers is followed by a second question: “How much longer?” How similar those queries are to the psalmist’s oft-repeated cry, “How long, O LORD, how long?” (Psalm 6:3b, NIV). Patience is an uncommon virtue these days. We’re anxious to get where we’re going or to get what we want. But think how much we miss while wishing we were elsewhere! In our rush to reach a destination, we fail to grasp lessons that can be learned only along the way. What blessings might you be overlooking in the here-and-now and the right-where-you-are?

—Kari Myers



*God loves his little birds; for all  
his tender care he shows;  
a single sparrow cannot fall  
but its Creator knows. ...  
God loves each little bird; but still  
more tender is his care  
for children who obey his  
will,  
than for the fowls of air.*  
—Anonymous



Please remember First Friends during this time of the pandemic. We still have expenses and bills to pay. Thank you for your generosity.



Susan Block

Cheryl Sanford

Mendy Boyle

Dan Sheridan

Mary Gang

Alec Wessendorf

Dolly Kellar

Walt Wessendorf

Bea McMurtrey

Emily West

Liz Nielander

Friends,

I've been planning a new sermon series (for whenever we get out of this quarantine) on discipleship. One of the key passages of discipleship is The Sermon on the Mount. This is the list of 'blessed are the' statements that Jesus delivers to a crowd. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

I had been confused by this important teaching of Jesus. Is Jesus saying that people who are poor are blessed? Is he saying you need to be poor in spirit to be blessed? How do I make myself poor in spirit? And there are a bunch of these statements: those who mourn, the merciful, the persecuted, the meek; they're all blessed. So, is this a list of things I'm striving for? Is that how I get to experience heaven on earth?

The truth is much simpler and much more profound: Jesus is talking to people in a culture where to be wealthy, well-connected, high-status etc. was proof that you were blessed by God. In this teaching Jesus is revealing something profound about this new Kingdom he is inviting people to be a part of. He is saying, everyone from any walk of life in any circumstance is both welcomed into and will find blessings in the Kingdom. (Of course, there is much more to go over concerning this Sermon on the Mount, but this is the general principle.) Put differently, Jesus is saying that, if you let him into your life or your heart to be the king of your life, no matter what situation you find yourself in, you will be blessed because Christ will be living in you! That is the way this new Kingdom works.

And so, society and culture have a list of people who are blessed and who are "cursed". Those who are worth something are the famous, the wealthy, fit, those with good hair and great skin. In today's society, you are worth less if you are fat, bald, wrinkly, old, crippled, poor, dirty, smelly, unemployed (until recently!), addicted, imprisoned and the list goes on and on. The good news of the Kingdom is that when Christ is living in you, you will be blessed no matter your circumstances. Because that is the power of pure love. Dallas Willard highlights the point in his book, *The Divine Conspiracy*:

Blessed are the physically repulsive,  
Blessed are those who smell bad,  
The twisted, misshapen, deformed,  
The too big, too little, too loud,  
The bold, the fat, the old-  
For they are all riotously celebrated in the party of Jesus

When Divine Love enters your life you begin to wonder why you cared so much about what everyone else thought of you. When Christ lives in you, what else could possibly matter more?

Grace and Peace - Jon

