

Your A.P. History Course: Take Pledges to Bring the Beatitudes into your life as Bible Characters did when God Answered Prayers for them (Warren Huff 10-20-19)

(1) Blessed are they who are free from pride. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus: "Before Abraham was I AM." ... "I of mine own self can do nothing."

Q-Tip!

Abram==>Abraham obediently left his comfort zone to find his growth zone.

-He gave his nephew LOT his choice of land and offered Radical Hospitality to strangers and so "entertained angels unawares."

Like Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, I pledge –to be hospitable to angels—and free enough from pride to instantly leave behind –my comfort zone and the merely material when God directs me to do so.

(2) Blessed are they who hurt inside and comfort to them be given.

-Not Instant Gratification for Abram & Sarai

-Grief for Jacob over Loss of Joseph

- Joseph's hurt of being sold into slavery and unjustly imprisoned

-All given comfort: of a child long awaited; of reversing a blundering dispatch & of freedom to serve and save humanity & bloom where planted.

Like Jacob, when hurt inside I will wrestle with angels and refuse to let them go until they bless me.

Like Joseph, when hurt inside, I will refuse to be discouraged, — and will "live to give" and to bless those around me—and so I too will be blessed and comforted.

(3, 4) Blessed are the patient, the kind and the meek.

If you look for goodness you'll find what you seek.

-Moses = Patient (Years in Pharaoh court, 40 in Exile, 40 in wilderness)

kindest word in the English language is NO

-Meek- he leaned on the sustaining infinite every step of the way

- "I of mine own self can do nothing." -Jesus

Like Moses, I pledge to be patient even when my freedom or another's seems a long time coming—I will be meek and lean on God for all I do and say—and so find the Promised Land I seek.

(5) Blessed are they who are quick to forgive. They too, will be forgiven.

- David with Abigail's help quickly forgave her rude husband, Nabal.
- David was forgiven even his adulterous, murderous trespass on Uriah the Hittite & his wife Bathsheba

Like David, when I'm offended by another's rudeness and disrespect, I too will be forgiving—and I too will be forgiven.

(6) Blessed are they who are pure in heart, Children who walk in the light.

- Walk the Talk! Daniel 1-3 - Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego (and Daniel) refused to defile themselves with the King's food & drink (Dan 1:9) or to bow down to his graven image or music, so they (and the king) saw the Christ with them in the burning fiery furnace where only their bonds were burned and no smell of smoke was left on them. (Dan 3)

Like Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego, when I'm surrounded by pressure to bow down to matter and to worship its idols—I will remain pure in heart. Like them when persecuted I will then be able to walk in the light of Christ—knowing that only my bonds will be burned and that no ill effects or bad memories will follow.

(7) Blessed are the peacemakers in this world.

They win with creative peacemaking efforts—and without a fight!

- “Understanding the control that Love holds over all, Daniel felt safe in the lions' den and Paul proved the viper to be harmless.” S&H 514

- See the calm trust of Daniel in the lion's den as shown in the Riviere prints

Like Daniel, when I'm surrounded by seeming enemies and strife, I pledge to win without a fight by “understanding the control that Love holds over all” and by “think(ing) without strife.” (line from CedarS song)

(8) If you follow Christ and try to live his way, You'll be persecuted (or challenged) like the prophets in their day. But rejoice, be glad, wipe your tears away, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

- Mary Baker Eddy Motto: “Do right & Fear not!” ...“even if not popular thing to do” – CedarS Torchbearer Pledge

It's our Turn in history to carry on the tradition of rejoicing “all the rugged way” because we know how it ends and that good always wins!

Like Jesus in the Garden of “Gethsemane,” I pledge to do God's will, bravely face my foes and like him be “love meeting no response, but still remaining love.” (SH 586)