

# The Jerusalem Times

## CARPENTER CRAFTS RADICAL NEW FAITH MOVEMENT

PART 1 IN THE SERIES, **HEADLINES:** THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

*An Investigative Report by Pastor Grant Fishbook*

### Matthew 5:1-11

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.”

### The Teaching Ladder of the Radical Fringe

#### Rung 1: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

You are blessed when you know that you need God

#### Rung 2: Blessed are those who mourn

Mourning is touched with God's comfort

#### Rung 3: Blessed are the meek

Meek does not mean weak

#### Rung 4: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness

Loving God changes your appetite

#### Rung 5: Blessed are the merciful

Give mercy because you got mercy

#### Rung 6: Blessed are the pure in heart

Blessing comes in being real

#### Rung 7: Blessed are the peacemakers

Two kinds of people: thermometers and thermostats

#### Rung 8: Blessed are the persecuted

Following Jesus makes you a target

*(continues on back)*

## What's the point?

Jesus was different.

Jesus wants us to be different too.

“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.

– *Matthew 5:13-16*

## Next Steps

Respond to the “Easter Ask”

- Pray for and invite 5 people to an Easter weekend service.

Write their names here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

- Learn our Easter anthem, *Christ is Risen*, so we can raise a unified voice of celebration on Easter weekend. Free download at [ctkbellingham.com](http://ctkbellingham.com)
- Be on time on Easter weekend to make it easier for those who are unfamiliar with our parking lot and building.

### Small Group Questions



- 1) What is your favorite spring activity?
- 2) Have someone read Matthew 5:1-11 out loud to the group. Why do you think this teaching was so radical? Do you believe it is still radical today?
- 3) If you wanted to change the spiritual landscape of a neighborhood, which rung would make the most noticeable change if you started doing it immediately?
- 4) Now have someone read Matthew 5:13-16 out loud to the group. What are some practical ways that we can be salt and light this coming week?
- 5) What is one thing you can do to make a difference in the life of someone you love that will point them toward Jesus? Will you commit today to do it?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?