

March 26

THE BEATITUDES AND HOW YOU LIVE

Read the *Beatitudes* found in Matthew 5:3-10.

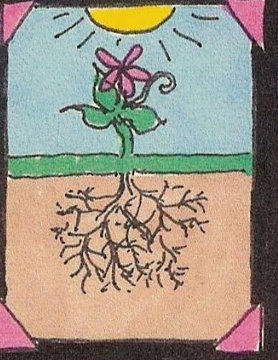
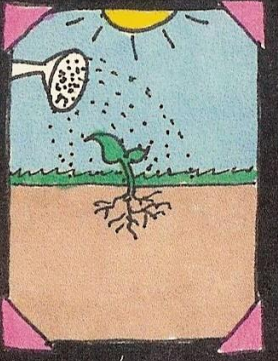
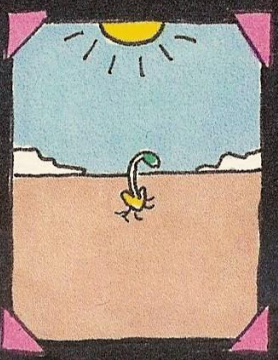
Then read this same portion of scripture from "The Message," a more modern translation, which is printed below.

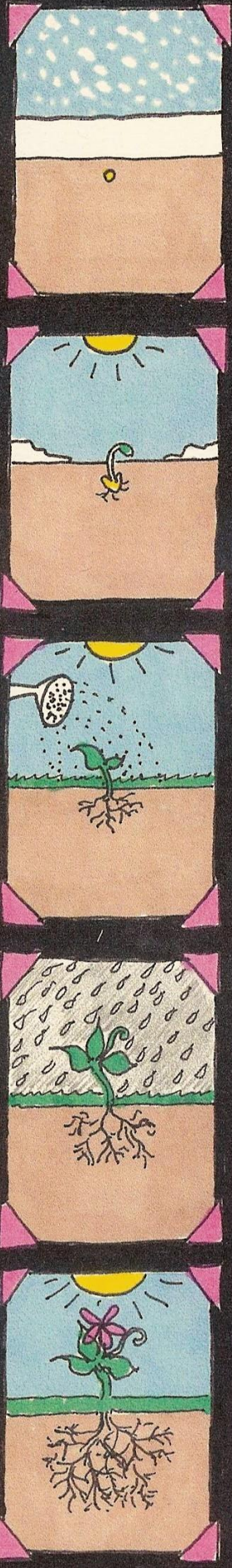
"You are blessed when you are at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his Rule.

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for god. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.





You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being "careful" you find yourselves cared for. You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and your heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom."

Think about some life experiences where you have been blessed and have grown in your relationship with God. Share these with a friend, write about them, and thank God for your blessed life.