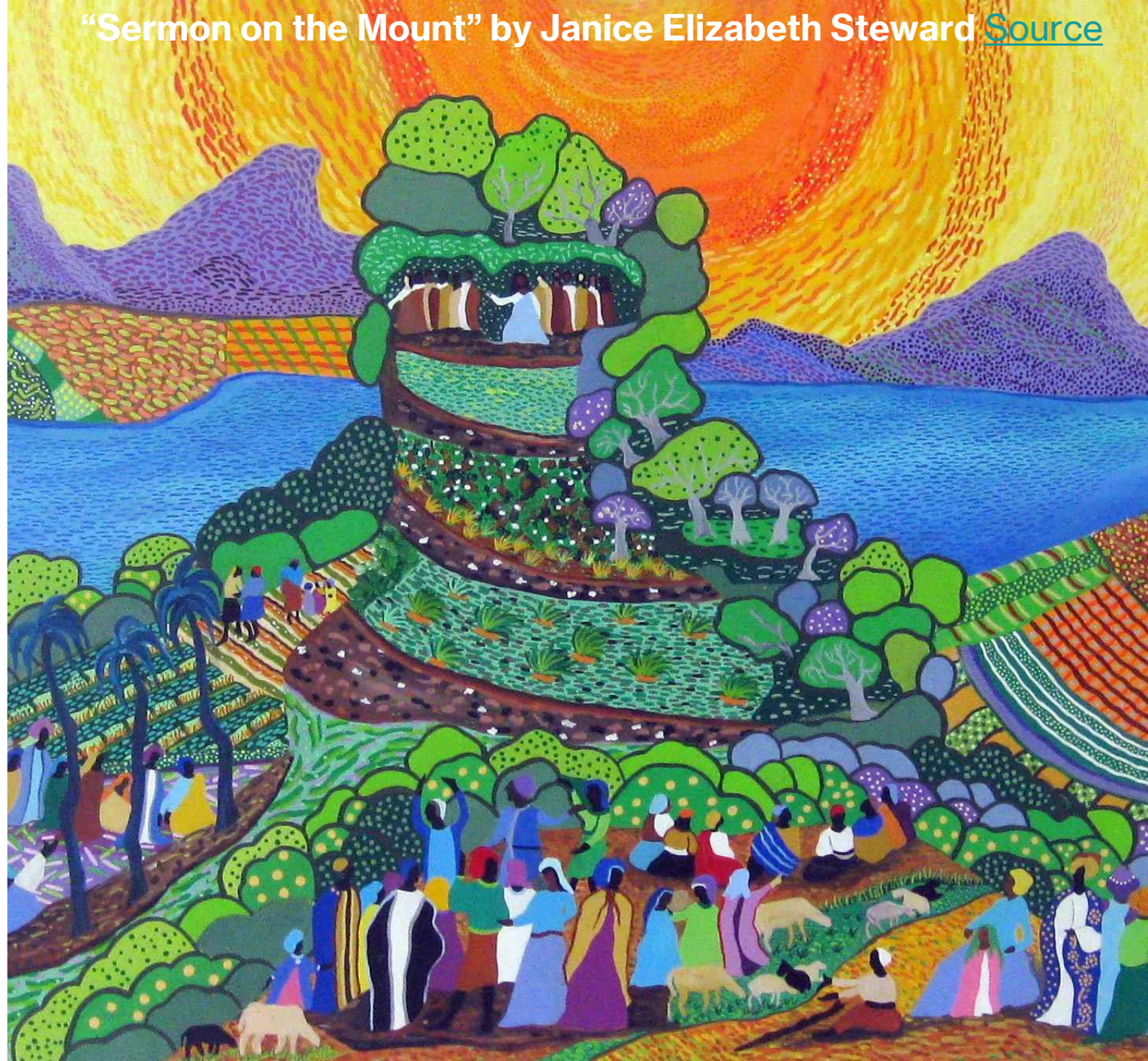




HALLELUJAH

Hope & Resistance in the Sermon on the Mount

Sunday, June 7th, 2026
St. Croix Church -A Spirit of Hope
Jess Knight





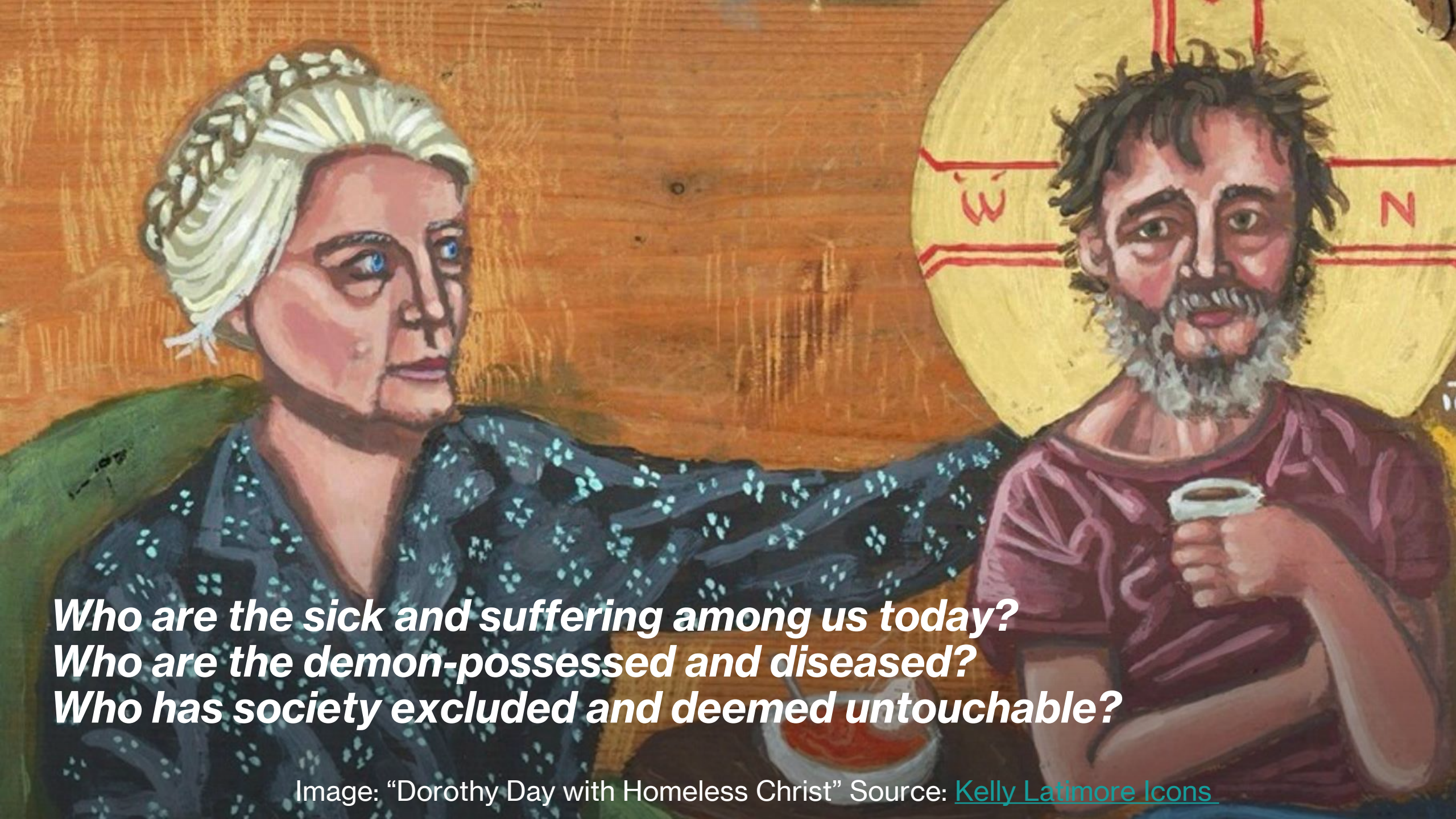
“Jesus fame spread throughout all Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. 1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“See, here’s why sometimes it’s good to ignore the chapter and verse separations. Because it’s so easy for us to default to hearing Jesus’ sermon on the mount as pure exhortation. As though he is giving us a list of things we should try and be so we can be blessed – be meeker, be poorer, and a little more mournier and you will meet the conditions of earning Jesus’ blessing. But the thing is, it’s hard to imagine Jesus exhorting a crowd of demoniacs and epileptics to be meeker. He wasn’t telling them what to try and become. He was telling them you **are** blessed and you **are** the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This was his special class of people to whom he preached.”

-Nadia Bolz Webber



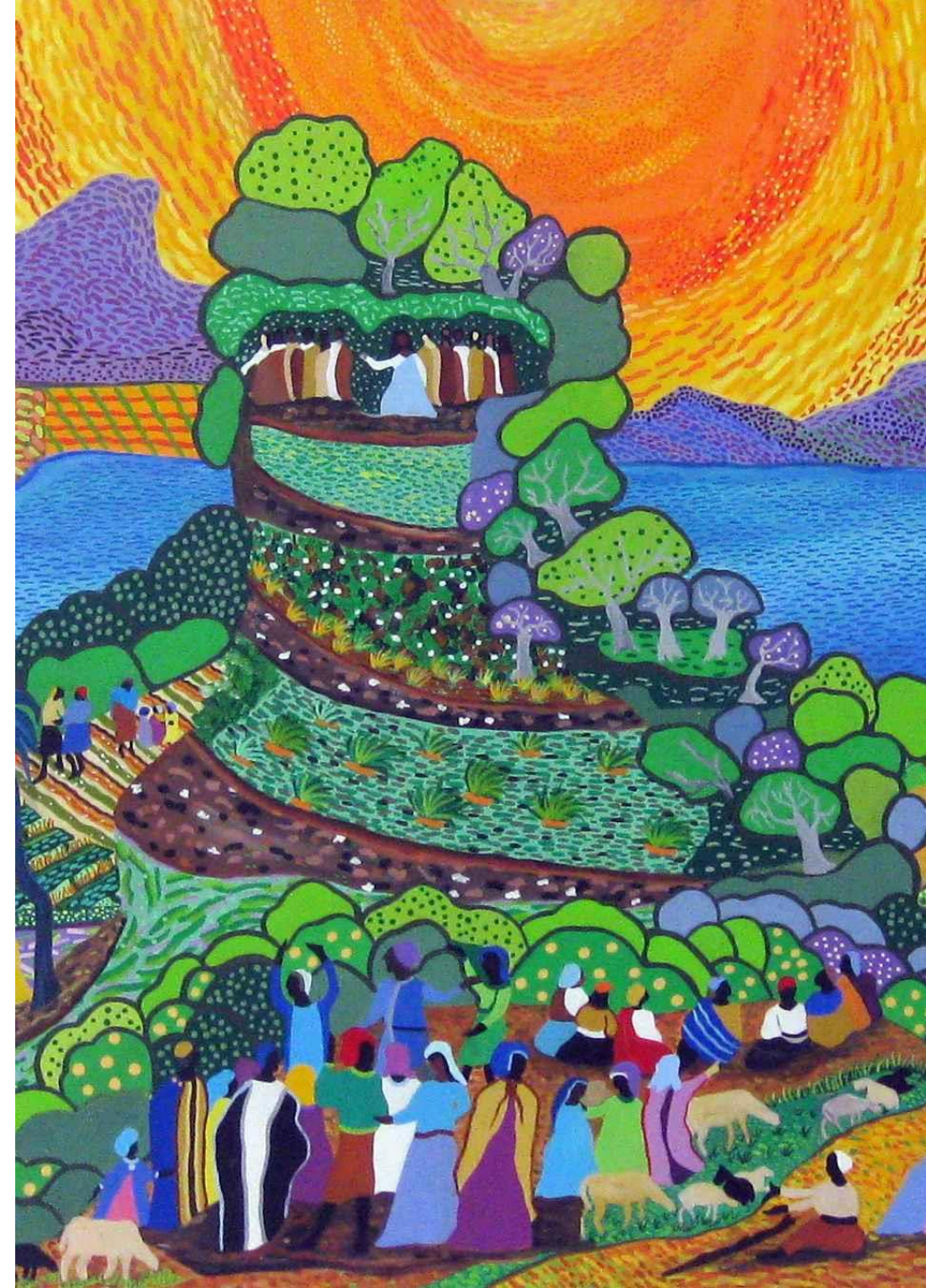
***Who are the sick and suffering among us today?
Who are the demon-possessed and diseased?
Who has society excluded and deemed untouchable?***

Image: "Dorothy Day with Homeless Christ" Source: [Kelly Latimore Icons](#)

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7

- 5:1-2 – Before Jesus Began
- 5:3-16 – Beatitudes, Salt, and Light
- 5:17-20 – Jesus Came to Fulfill the Law and Prophets
- 5:21-48 – Six Subjects to Show the Law's Intent
- 6:1-18 – Disciplines to Practice in Secret
- 6:19-7:11 – Dealing with Possessions and People
- **7:12 – The Golden Rule is the Law and Prophets**
- 7:13-27 – Two Ways, Two Trees, Two Foundations
- 7:28-29 – After Jesus Finished



“The Sermon on the Mount is a call to resistance. It has always been subversive and counter-cultural. Because of its core ethic of nonviolence and its insistence on the blessing of the powerless, it can be misinterpreted as a dissuasion from action, a plea to settle down and accept authority. Yet it uproots and overturns a conventional order built on and maintained by violence. The Sermon on the Mount calls on us to repent. Repentance is the first step of resistance. Before the powers of exclusion, greed, and coercion sweep us along in their destructive path, we are called to repent – turn around – and resist the tide that threatens to drown us all.

The Sermon on the Mount catches us in the current of our cultural violence and turns us around first by drawing our attention to the victims swept under the wave of human violence.

How are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the ones who hunger and thirst for justice, blessed? Jesus blessed the people on the margins of his culture by embracing them, showing solidarity with them, building a community in which those who had always been shunned were welcomed and loved. As the body of Christ, we are called to be that blessing.

-By Lindsey Paris-Lopez

“To conduct a revolution of love, we must reconnect with the reality of our system and its victims. When we tear away the ideologies, the labels, and the rationalizations, we show ourselves the truth of what we are doing, and conscience awakens. Bearing witness, then, is not a mere tactic; it is indispensable in a revolution of love. If love is the expansion of self to include another, then whatever reveals our connections has the potential to foster love. You cannot love what you do not know.”

— *Charles Eisenstein, The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible*



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