

## Moments of Beauty

### Week 9 - Cathedrals and Places of Worship

Tuesday, November 3



**Church of the Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Israel. Photo Credit: Larry Brown**

The Beatitudes: 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, saying: "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." Matthew 5:1-12

One of the remarkable things about Christian sites in Israel, is how many things have been "re-membered" for us. The ministry, teachings and love of Jesus were so palpable that people memorialized places by building sacred sites, churches, cathedrals and monasteries over the top of places where important events happened. This beautiful Church of the Beatitudes overlooks the site where Jesus spoke to his disciples about how to live lovingly and in a grace-filled way in this world. As you stand in the portico and hear the words (above), you can imagine what God has imagined for our lives on this earth. You can palpably feel the Spirit as the wind blows around you on the edge of the Sea of Galilee.

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I am so thankful for people who had the foresight to create sacred spaces for us. And for those who help us re-member our spiritual life so that it is in line with what God has imagined. What are you doing now to help others along their own Christian journey? I challenge you today to leave gracious things for others to be able to discover or move along their own pathways. It is a beautiful thing to leave a trail of love.