

## She walks in Blessedness

A certain woman, having raised a large family and whose good works, generous heart, and goodly countenance had made her also a treasured wife and friend, was walking one day in her gardens, cast down by the cares of the world. As she walked she cried out to God, "O Lord, I am old now and my strength is gone. I am of little use to anyone, and yet even now you increase my family and the friends I love. I fear, Lord, that I must surely fail you and my family, not least of all my husband whom I love." And she wept before God because she was very sorrowful and very tired.

Hearing her lament, God's heart was touched, for he loved her very much. As she waited before him, he spoke to her in familiar words.

Blessed are you because you are Desperate for Me. I have been your only strength all your life, and I will be forever. You will not fail me, or those you love. Truly, the Kingdom of Heaven is yours!

Blessed are you when you Mourn. Your grief is the outpouring of my own, manifest in you. You, who have lost children, grandchildren, parents, and friends - I will ever be your comfort, and you shall surely see them again, rejoicing!

Blessed are you, my Meek and humble servant – your life is an offering of love and you have always been my servant. Even now you understand that others must increase and you decrease, yet truly, it is you that will inherit the earth!

Blessed are you because your heart Hungers for Righteousness. You have been a light, a rock, and a tower all your days because you have sought my truth. I have filled you with my own Holiness.

Blessed are you for your Mercy. It flows from me through you in a stream of forgiveness and grace into the broken hearts and ruined lives you touch. The fruit of your mercy is returned to you, overflowing, endless, and forever!

Blessed are you for your Pure Heart, my precious daughter, that sees Me in truth. I delight to live in you! You shall surely see Me in glory when you stand before me at the last day!

Blessed are you, my Peacemaker. Through you your family has become reconciled to me and to each other, friends have come to love each other, people and nations will honor you. Truly, you are my child.

Blessed are you for suffering Persecution in my Name when you have loved those who hate me – bigots and bullies, skeptics and sinners, and foolish children innumerable. For every bruise, wound, and slander you have suffered I will recompense 100-fold. Oh my daughter, great is your reward!

When the Lord God finished speaking, the woman lifted up her head and rejoiced, for she knew again His promises and felt His blessing on her life.