



A NEW HUMANITY: BLESSINGS

Aloha everyone! I'm Mark if we haven't met and I want to welcome you to our service. We are continuing our brand new series, *A New Humanity*, where Jesus is showing us what it looks like to be truly human. Because let's be honest, humanity fails at being human. We don't know what it's supposed to look like!

A young ventriloquist was touring all over Hawaii and one night he was doing a show in a small club in Waikiki. With his dummy on his knee, he started going through his usual Podagee jokes. But all of a sudden, this Podagee guy in the fourth row stood up on his chair and started shouting!

"I've heard enough of your Podagee jokes! What makes you think you can stereotype us that way? What does being Podagee have to do with someone's worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep guys like me from being respected at work and in the community and from reaching our full potential. Because of guys like you who discriminate us all in the name of comedy!"

Embarrassed, the ventriloquist began to apologize but the Podagee guy cut him off and said, "You stay out of this mister! I'm talking to that little brat on your knee!"

We don't know what it looks like to be human! Everyday, people encounter little things that cause them to question their faith in humanity. You see them posting all the time, #Faith_in_humanity_lost. But how many of us know, we don't put our faith in humanity but in the One who redeems humanity! Without Jesus, humanity is a lost cause. We saw this last week. Where Adam and Eve failed, where God's people failed, and where all of us fail, Jesus prevails! Where humanity fails, Jesus prevails!

Last week we saw how Jesus is our perfect example of what it means to be human because He passed the tests that all of us fail. He came to demonstrate perfect dependence and trust in the Father and show us how to overcome the dark powers of this world. This week we are going to dive into Jesus' introduction to the greatest sermon ever told – the sermon on the mount. Throughout this collection of teachings, Jesus is going to show us what it means to be truly human. He starts by showing us nine quality traits that attract God's blessing.

Jesus' Followers

Last week we concluded with Jesus passing 3 trials – 3 tests in the wilderness. We read about this in Matthew 4. After the wilderness Jesus went into the region of Galilee and it says,

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near," (Matthew 4:17).