



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

My parents introduced me to Jesus. They rarely gave lectures. They just lived and I observed. They lived the Beatitudes by loving, forgiving, giving, and seeking God. I saw my parents pray and study the Bible. I heard my parents share God's miracles, wonders, blessings, and encouragement with others. And most of all, I saw my parents give.

My parents were guides and mentors to my brother and me, accompanying us on the path of walking the Way. Part of that walk, as my dad says, is giving God the 3-T's: time, talent, and treasure. Papi, an Episcopal priest in Houston, and Mami never forced my brother, Alex (now an Episcopal priest in Manor, TX), or me to go to church. But we saw their dedication and countless hours at church preparing, cleaning, creating, listening, and counseling without complaining. We have had many people come into our home to eat, sleep, and be refreshed. Papi and Mami taught us by example that we are blessed to be a blessing.

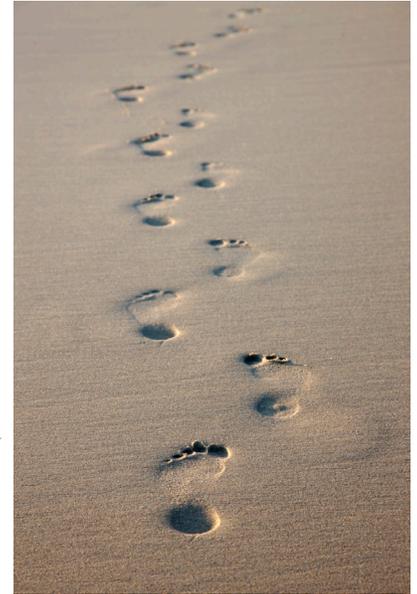
The more I give, the more I am blessed. I give the time God has granted me, and my beatitude is that a 24-hour day accommodates my full-time teaching career, 9-hour course load for a doctorate, music ministry, walking, cooking, texting, writing, singing, movies, family, travel, and friends.

I give the talent God has given me, and my beatitude is that I can write new songs and hear how my songs have touched and moved others towards faithfulness.

I give the treasure God has entrusted me, and my beatitude is that I can be generous to my church, all the bills are paid and there is money left over to travel to visit my son.

I like to think Jesus, as a son, is like me, a daughter, blessed to have received the gift of loving parents who taught us what blessedness looks like in God's kingdom.

We all need guides and mentors to follow the Way of Jesus. The walk is not always easy, but we are never alone and infinitely blessed.



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Reflection Questions

- Who is your mentor in following the Way of Jesus?
- How is it that in giving we receive?
- What does the path of the Beatitudes look like for you?

