

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY JOINS WITH OUR NATION IN MOURNING THE PASSING OF GERALD R. FORD, the 38th President of the United States, who died on December 26, 2006. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ford family and remember them in prayer. The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Certain, rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, CA, offered the homily at the January 2 funeral service in Washington, D.C. and eulogized President Ford as a man who embodied the virtues of the Beatitudes, or Blessings, which begin Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew's Gospel.

Dr. Certain read the Beatitudes from the Bible in the *Contemporary English Version*, a translation of the American Bible Society. In remembrance of President Ford, we are pleased to offer this special commemorative bookmark containing the Beatitudes in a downloadable format.

Blessings

Jesus taught his disciples:

God blesses those people
who depend only on him.
They belong to the
kingdom of heaven!

God blesses those people
who grieve.
They will find comfort!

God blesses those people
who are humble.
The earth will belong to them!

God blesses those people
who want to obey him
more than to eat or drink.
They will be given
what they want!

God blesses those people
who are merciful.
They will be treated
with mercy!

God blesses those people
whose hearts are pure.
They will see him!

God blesses those people
who make peace.
They will be called his children!

God blesses those people
who are treated badly
for doing right.
They belong to the
kingdom of heaven.

God will bless you when people
insult you, mistreat you, and
tell all kinds of evil lies about
you because of me. Be happy
and excited! You will have a
great reward in heaven.

Matthew 5.3-12a

The "Beatitudes" (Blessings) found in Matthew's Gospel are encouraging reminders of God's love for all humankind. Read them often and give thanks for the blessings God has brought into your life and reflect on the ways you, too, can be a blessing to others.

This is a Selection of Holy Scripture
in the *Contemporary English Version*.

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2. Using scissors or an X-acto knife and metal ruler, trim the bookmark to the outside edge of the crop marks provided.

If trimmed correctly, there will be a thin white border on all sides of the trimmed piece.
3. Fold the trimmed bookmark in half.

If folded correctly, there will still be a thin white border on three sides of the folded piece.
4. Use double-sided tape or a glue stick along the back of the printout to adhere the folded sides together.
5. Using your cutting implement, trim the folded bookmark down to the crop marks. Your bookmark is now complete and ready to use!

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