A  Values and influence
   ❖ This is what makes us blessed (happy): Being poor of spirit, weeping because of sin, acting with meekness, yearning for righteousness, being merciful, having a pure mind, being peacemakers, bearing the injustice against us.
   ❖ Many of these qualities are related to the way we treat others.
   ❖ We are light when we enlighten the lives of others with our words and example.
   ❖ We must live with other people in order to be salt, influencing and improving their lives.

B  Responding to injustice
   ❖ The lives of those listening to Jesus were not easy. The powerful were mistreating them, many had fallen into debt and were abused by the moneylenders, the Roman soldiers forced them to work for nothing in return.
   ❖ It’s easy to get set up in hate in these situations. Jesus taught them to respond in an appropriate way, showing no hate but compassion towards those who don’t want to be blessed.
   ❖ Many times we cannot eliminate injustice, but we can choose how to react: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21).

C  Acts of love
   ❖ Jesus told the real story of a Samaritan who “had compassion” (Lk. 10:33) when he saw his enemy in need.
   ❖ The mind-set of the priest and Levite: “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?”
   ❖ The mind-set of the good Samaritan: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?”

D  Our priorities
   ❖ The parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), introduces a rich man who remains indifferent to the needs of the poor.
   ❖ In life, the respective circumstances of both characters remained unchanged; but in death, as judged by God, their positions were dramatically reversed.
   ❖ In another parable (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus introduced another rich man who was worried about his riches. He was concerned about this temporal life only, and he lost his eternal life.
   ❖ These two parables teach that the most important thing is to seek God’s Kingdom first. We must also share God’s blessings with others.

E  Serving others
   ❖ The parable of the sheep and the goats is an example of this. Doing mercy and caring for others is part of the righteous’ lifestyle.
   ❖ They don’t have to think about it. In addition, they don’t proclaim their acts of kindness or expect any reward in return.
   ❖ Jesus receives the acts we do to help those in need as if we had done them to Himself: “as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” (Matthew 25:40)