

Handout #1: The Beatitudes Lesson 6:

## **THE COVENANT ORDEAL**

(an individual must have knowledge of what God's will is for his life  
in righteous living when facing a covenant ordeal)

### **GOD'S PLAN**

THE WORD OF GOD/  
CHURCH DOCTRINE

SUFFERING/  
PERSONAL LOSS/  
SACRIFICE

### **RESULT**

SUCCESS IN  
ETERNAL TERMS

### **THE WORLD'S PLAN**

EARTHLY VALUES

EARTHLY  
REWARDS

### **RESULT**

SUCCESS IN  
EARTHLY TERMS

## **EXAMPLES OF COVENANT ORDEALS**

ADAM & EVE  
(Genesis 3:1-24)

FAILURE

ABRAHAM & ISAAC  
(Genesis 22:1-14)

SUCCESS

JESUS AT GETHSEME  
(Matt. 28:36-46; Mk. 14:32-42; Lk. 22:39-46)

SUCCESS

PETER AT THE JEWISH TRIAL OF JESUS  
(Matt. 26:69-75; Mk.14:66-72; Lk. 22:55-62; Jn. 18:16-27)

FAILURE

STEPHEN AT HIS TRIAL BEFORE THE  
JEWISH SANHEDRIN  
(Acts 6:8-60)

SUCCESS

PETER AT HIS CRUCIFIXION  
(after fleeing Rome returned to die as a martyr for Christ)  
(*The Acts of Peter*)

SUCCESS

[See: [www.earlychristianwriters.com/actspeter](http://www.earlychristianwriters.com/actspeter)]

## Handout 2: The Beatitudes Lesson 6

### **Questions for group discussion:**

There is always warfare between the material and the spiritual—between what the world interprets as pleasurable and what God tells us is sinful or righteous behavior. Nothing material is inherently evil. It is the application of the material that can be used for evil and not for good. The amount of money we have isn't as important as our attitude toward it and the way we use it (see 1 Timothy 6:10; Luke 12:48; and Matthew 6:24).

**Question:** What is your attitude toward money and material possessions? Are there responsibilities associated with money and material blessings?

**Question:** Why does Christ give Himself to us, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist? How was this precious gift prefigured in the Old Testament?

**Question:** How does our sharing in the life of the Most Holy Trinity begin, and how does that relationship deepen throughout our faith journey?

**Question:** Is the Eucharist necessary for our salvation? See John 6:41-58 (verse 57 is the key) and CCC # 1324-1327, 1341-1344, 1389-1396, and 2180.