

Blessed: The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-3

Introduction:

Over the next few weeks, we will be walking through some of the Beatitudes. It is beneficial to listen to the sermon before discussing with your Life Group but is not necessary. The hope is that the questions and guidance contained within this discussion guide provides enough help for you to have a greater understanding of the material, as well as be challenged to live faithfully in Christ Jesus. Today's passage is Matthew 5:1-3 but it would be helpful to read the entire Beatitudes before discussing the following questions. If you are utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on page 1460- JF

Questions:

Consider for a moment what it means to be blessed. Describe for the group your understanding of outward and/or inward signs of blessings? Who is able to bless others? Who is able to be blessed? In what way(s) do you feel you have been blessed lately? Why is blessing so important to our faith?

Watch The Bible Project Video on the Beatitudes (bibleproject.com/explore/video/a-surprising-new-world/you-will-only-need-to-watch-until-4:38). After watching the video, read the entirety of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) in three different versions (*I suggest NASB, NIV, & The Message*). After watching the video and reading, what is the context of our passage – What is happening? Who is speaking? Who is being spoken to? Why is this important information to know? What is the Sermon on the Mount? How was the video helpful? What questions do you have as a result of the video? How was reading the Beatitudes in three translations helpful to you?

Our focus for this past Sunday was the first Beatitude – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” What does it mean to be poor in spirit? In what way(s) have you heard this Beatitude taught before? What is the appropriate response to this Beatitude? Does a person respond once to this Beatitude or does a person have to return to this Beatitude again and again? Why do you answer this way? How does the material poverty of the world help you to understand this Beatitude? How does our affluent culture help you to understand any distractions or lies about the spiritual reality of this Beatitude? Why must we start with poverty of spirit before moving on to other Beatitudes?

In what way(s) does sin begin to impact our understanding of poverty of spirit? In what way(s) does our culture not acknowledge being poor in spirit? In what way(s) does our culture reframe or redefine poverty of spirit? How does our culture seek comfort and growth in area(s) that are not rooted in Jesus? Why is Jesus the only answer to being poor in spirit? How would you counsel/pastor/encourage a person when they are wrestling with their own poverty of spirit?

Recall what Pastor Kevin said in his sermon on this first Beatitude. What did he say that has stood out to you that you would like to discuss and explore further? Is there something you would like to discuss about this Beatitude that we have not yet talked about?

Conclusion:

As a group, spend time prayerfully reflecting on your own need and poverty of spirit. Consider offering a word of praise to God for the ways He has provided for your soul and brought you into the family of God. If you have a person in your group that may not yet be a believer, ensure that the gospel is clearly spoken but do not give cause to ostracize or frustrate them. Caring for one another is of the utmost importance in a group setting. After considering where God has blessed you, consider offering a word of encouragement to one another regarding where you see God at work in one another's lives.