

Small Group Questions
Pursuing Your Kingdom Life - Matthew 5:1-6
26th October 2014

Spend some time catching up!

On Sunday we started our new series, based in the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest ever preacher, in one of the world's best auditoriums; on the side of a mountain.

- What do you remember about the context and setting of the Sermon on the Mount?

Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

It's my hope for us over the next 14 weeks that we would see ourselves as one of the blessed ones in the crowd listening to the best sermon ever preached, seated at His feet on the mountainside hungry and thirsty to hear every word that comes out of his mouth. No matter where we might be in our spiritual journey, hungry to hear truth and hungry to hear about what it means to live out and pursue this KINGDOM LIFE!

- Now for a really important question? Have you ever taken a SELFIE?

I wonder if you have ever taken a selfie or if you don't take selfies, I guess the old school selfie is looking at yourself in a mirror, which I'm sure we have all done. I wonder, have you ever asked yourself these questions as you look at your "selfie?"

- What do I see? Pretty confronting question really!
- How do I see myself? Or have you ever wondered who people see when they look at me?
- Do people see Jesus showing through me?

It's been said that the Beatitudes are a self-portrait of Christ. In other words the Beatitudes are "a Jesus selfie!"

I think at the end of the day our attitudes govern the type of person we become. As I read the Beatitudes I believe they describe attitudes that will help us to become more like Jesus. So over the coming weeks let's look at our attitude towards the KINGDOM LIFE and my prayer is that if we need a little attitude adjustment that the spirit would do that gently in us.

The Beatitudes

- What does the word Beatitude mean?

1. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD; POOR IN SPIRIT

He said:

*3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- Discuss what it means to be poor in spirit.

APPLICATION

- What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this Beatitude? How is your attitude here?
- How are you doing in the humility stakes? Are you dependent upon him or do you do your own thing?
- Do you know that you are spiritually bankrupt and that you are in need of a saviour?

Peterson writes *“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.*

2. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN – MOURN

*4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

- What’s this Beatitude about? Comforted?

APPLICATION

- What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this Beatitude?
- What’s your attitude towards sin?
- When was the last time your sin drove you to your knees in repentance?
- When was the last time you mourned over the sins of the world? A tactic of the devil is to desensitise us to sin and the atrocities of this world.
- Have you been desensitised?

3. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SELF AND OTHERS; MEEK

*5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

- What is meekness?

Peterson says 5 *“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.*

APPLICATION

- What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this beatitude?
- Do you see meekness?
- Are you gentle and self-controlled in the way you treat others?
- Is the power controlled by the Spirit.

4. FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT - OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GROWTH; Hunger and Thirst

*6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

- What is Righteousness?

Peterson says, 6 *“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat. Righteousness will bring Satisfaction!*

APPLICATION

- What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this Beatitude?
- Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- Are you committed to wholly doing God's will, personally and globally?

A smart person said; *The Beatitudes are not a standard for me to achieve but a yardstick by which to measure my submission to the HOLY SPIRIT.*

I want to give you a few moments now to do just that, to reflect upon these verses.

- What is the Spirit saying to you?
- What is he calling you to do?

Spend some time in PRAYER for each other...