

20141102 Pursuing Your Kingdom Life (Matthew 5:7-12)

Small Group Questions

Open in a word of Prayer

Can you remember last week's 4 Beatitudes?

It's been said that the beatitudes are a self-portrait of Christ. The Beatitudes are like "A Jesus Selfie!"

Our attitude governs the type of person that we become. As I read the Beatitudes I believe they describe attitudes and characteristics that will help us to become more like Jesus. At the end of the day that's what it's all about, becoming more like Jesus...

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NAS) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

So as we look at the remaining 4 beatitudes I pray that you will see Jesus and that you will be drawn to him and that you will want to follow Him and be transformed into His image.

Can anyone remember what Beatitude means? BLESSED and Blessed means "Favour of God." Today's first Beatitude is...

Matthew 5:7-12 (NIV)

*7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

1. WHAT IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS MERCY?

It's been said that "Mercy" may actually be GOD's most central attribute. Remember this...

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NIV) 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

If you are a Christ follower you have received and experienced God's Mercy. So having received His mercy, we then share His mercy with others. What does it mean to be merciful?

APPLICATION?

What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this beatitude? How is your attitude here?

Are you merciful? Do you forgive? Are you generous and when was the last time you showed compassion?

Peterson writes "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

*8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

2. WHAT IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD PURITY?

Discuss this quote...

Barker writes, "It is impossible to have one characteristic without the other. The one who is single-minded in commitment to the kingdom and its righteousness will also be inwardly pure. Inward sham, deceit, and moral filth cannot coexist with sincere devotion to Christ."

APPLICATION?

I wonder what does the windscreen of your heart looks like today. Are you cultivating a pure heart? Maybe there is sin that you need to deal with? Does the windscreen of your heart need a clean?

Peterson says, "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

*9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

3. WHAT IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEACEMAKING?

What is Peacemaking?

What is promised with this beatitude? Discuss the implications of this promise in your life!

APPLICATION?

-What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this beatitude? Are you a peacemaker or a troublemaker? Do you need to deposit something in the peacemaking amnesty bin? Are you concerned for those in your world who are not yet reconciled to God? Do you need to be reconciled to someone in your world? Family?

Peterson says 5 "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

*10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4. WHAT IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS PERSECUTION?

Why do you think persecution is an effective tool of the devil?

In v 11 12, it switches from 3rd person to 2nd, Matthew personalises it for us.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What are we encouraged to do when we are persecuted?

APPLICATION?

-What does your Spiritual Selfie look like in this beatitude? What is your ATTITUDE towards persecution? When you experience persecution do you get all upset and want to throw it in or do you rejoice?

Petersen says "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

The beatitudes are not a standard for me to achieve but a yardstick by which to measure my submission to the HOLY SPIRIT.

Give your group a few moments now to measure their submission to the Holy Spirit, to reflect upon these verses. What is the Spirit saying to you? What is he calling you to do?

Is anyone willing to share what the Spirit has been saying to you through the BEATITUDES?

PRAY for each other.

GOD BLESS and keep pursuing your Kingdom Life!