



JOURNEY GROUPS

SEPT 21 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. Early in his ministry, Jesus called disciples to follow him and he quickly went to work training them so that they would develop values and priorities that were kingdom focused. He also cared more about character than just having knowledge of the law. Why are kingdom values and Christian character so important to living a life that pleases God?
2. What does our world consider a blessed life?
3. To find out what Jesus considers a blessed life, let's read the Beatitudes.
Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 5. Who would be willing to read verses 1-11 for us?
4. What sticks out to you from the eight beatitudes that we just read in contrast to our earlier list of what the world considers a blessed life?
5. On Sunday, Matt said that we are incredibly talented. We have a special knack of taking almost any good gift that God gives us and turning it into an idol. What is a gift or blessing in your life that you have to be careful to not let it turn into an idol that you worship?
6. Matt shared Pastor Chris Hilken's definition of a blessing with us on Sunday. Pastor Hilken said: "A blessing is something that always draws you nearer to God." And he said that: "there is no such thing as a blessing if it pulls you further from God." What do you think of these ideas?
7. Why would the beatitudes be contradictory to the teachings of the health, wealth and prosperity gospel?
8. What kind of blessings are bigger and better than material blessings?

- 9.The first beatitude is the most important. Matt said that if we can't experience the reality of beatitude #1 we won't be able to sniff any of the other blessings. **Have someone read Matthew 5:3.**
- 10.What is the blessing you receive if you are poor in Spirit?
- 11.Poor in spirit means spiritual bankruptcy. In some ways, this beatitude is saying, "Blessed are you when you realize that you are spiritually bankrupt." Why is knowing that you are a terrible sinner who has racked up an unpayable sin debt a blessing?
- 12.When did you realize that you were a terrible sinner and that you deserved punishment for your sins?
- 13.If you haven't already talked about this yet, why is realizing that you are a terrible sinner who has racked up an unpayable sin debt the critical step in finding salvation in Jesus?
- 14.Let's talk about beatitude #2 next. **Have someone read Matthew 5:4.**
- 15.How can grieving your sin, provide fuel for repentance?
- 16.What comforts are available to us from God when we are in a season of painful grief or mourning?
- 17.Does anyone have a testimony of a time that they went through painful grief and God ministered to them?
- 18.What do you think you can take away from our conversation tonight that will help you be a better disciple this week?

PRAYER

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