

The Beatitudes – Pt. 2

Ice Breaker Question: Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Opening Question: In the previous lesson we talked about being poor in the spirit, mourning and becoming a meek person. Of these three characteristics, which one do you need the most?

Facilitator: *Read the paragraph below and then have someone read Matthew 5:6-12.*

Because we have come to the place where we are dependent upon God's sufficiency, we need more than natural food to keep us going. We begin to develop a real hunger for God's word and His righteousness. This is a sign of significant growth and maturity.

Matthew 5:6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

Facilitator: *Share the following with your group before asking the question below.*

Keeping in mind that there are two aspects to our righteousness, one being that we are made righteous in Christ because of His blood, what does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?

- **What does it mean to you to hunger and thirst for righteousness?**

Remember, this is God's mountain that we are climbing, which means the only way we can reach the summit is to partake of His righteousness. Righteousness is the character or quality of being right or just in God's sight.

We must always keep in mind that we are righteous in His sight no matter what we have done. He continually sees us clothed in Christ's righteousness and not our own. 2 Corinthians 5:21

- **What do you think the second aspect of God's righteousness is?**

Facilitator: *Have someone read Matthew 3:14-15 and then share the thoughts below.*

We find the answer here in Matthew 3:14-15 where Jesus was being baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus was being questioned by John as to why he should be baptizing Jesus.

Jesus said, "it is fitting for us to do so that all righteousness may be fulfilled.

The Greek word for righteousness is "Dikaisune," which means whatever conforms to the revealed will of God.

What Jesus is saying here is that we must hunger and thirst for God's revealed will in our lives, otherwise we will stray off course and get lost on the mountain doing our own thing.

This is why we find in Matthew 6:33 seeking God's kingdom and seeking righteousness linked together. Because in order to receive the benefits and the fullness of the kingdom into our lives we must be seeking God's revealed will for our lives as well.

Facilitator: *have someone read Romans 1:17 and then ask the question below.*

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

- **In light of what we have just discussed, what is this Scripture saying about righteousness?**

Hungering and thirsting involves hungering and thirsting for a deeper walk in faith, as righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. It takes going from one level of faith to another to move up the mountain.

Facilitator: Have someone read Matthew 5:7 and then ask the following question.

Matthew 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

- **How does being merciful affect your walk with the Lord?**

We are no longer consumed with our own journey, but now we have been given more of a deposit of God's divine nature and we are concerned about helping those who are journeying with us. As a result you continue to receive God's mercy, which gives you further enablement for your own continued journey.

- **Can you give some examples of how you have shown mercy or how you have received mercy from others?**
- **How did this make you feel?**

Facilitator: Have someone read Matthew 5:8 and then ask the following questions.

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

- **What does being pure in heart mean to you?**

This does not necessarily have to do with a heart without sin, though there will be a turning from all known sin. The deeper meaning is one "without guile"..

- **What does it mean to be without guile?**

Guile is deceit and pretense. Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines pure as free from every admixture of what is false. Sincere.

Being pure and without guile means coming to the place where you can be completely open and honest with God and others. It means that you are able to be transparent, you don't have to put on an "air" or pretend to be what you are not or trying to hide your faults.

Facilitator: Have someone read Matthew 5:9 and then ask the following question.

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

- **What does it mean to be a peacemaker?**

More of the Divine nature of Christ has been imparted into your spirit and you now have a Christ-like influence that is able to calm the storms of life.

Peace makers are people who are at peace with God, who can also use opportunities to share the gospel in a way that helps other to be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18,20 *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.... Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

Facilitator: *Have someone read Matthew 5:10-12 and then ask the following questions.*

Matthew 5:10-12 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

- **What are some common ways in our culture that we experience persecution?**
- **What should be our response to being persecuted?**

We should not be surprised by persecution as Paul reminded Timothy, 'all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution'; but to such Jesus gives the assurance that they are citizens of the only kingdom that abides, the kingdom of heaven.

2 Timothy 3:12 *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Reflection & Prayer

- How has this impacted your life?
- Do you see these characteristics or attitudes of Christ taking root in your life?