

The Beatitudes – Pt. 1

Ice Breaker Question:

Facilitator: *Have someone read Matthew 5:3-12.*

Opening Question: Why do you suppose this was such an important message for Jesus?

For those who are choosing to come under the rule of the kingdom of God, Jesus is setting up a whole new package of values proclaiming that in these you and I will find fulfillment not in pleasure, but in longing, not in satisfaction, but in hunger, not in popularity, but in commitment to an unpopular cause, not in competition and winning, but in helping others to win their way to peace.

Facilitator: *Have someone read Matthew 5:3 and then ask the question below.*

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- **Who, in your mind, are the poor in spirit?**

The poor in spirit are those who recognize in their heart that they are ‘poor’ in the sense that they can do no good thing without divine assistance, and they have no power in themselves to help them do what God requires them to do. Their sufficiency is in Christ and not themselves.

2 Corinthians 3:5 *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.*

Facilitator: *Have someone read Matthew 5:4 and then ask the question below.*

Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

- **What do you think Jesus is referring to when He says, “Blessed are those who mourn?”**

To mourn implies a sadness and humble realization and regret for one’s sins. Mourning has to do with the ability to repent and being forgiven, which enables you to enjoy the freedom that it brings.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 *For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing; that you sorrowed in a godly manner; what diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

- **What is godly sorrow?**
- **What is worldly sorrow?**

We must continually come to the place in our lives where we really do have a godly sorrow for the sin in our lives. This does not just mean the sin in our lives when we entered the kingdom, but also the sin that is being continually exposed in our lives.

Facilitator: *Have someone read Matthew 5:5 and then ask the question below.*

- **What is meekness and how should it be expressed in our lives?**

The meek are those who humble themselves before God, because they acknowledge their utter dependence upon Him. In consequence, they are gentle in the dealings with others. You can be tender and gentle with people because you have given control of your life to God and don't have to "wind" all the time. When meekness begins to appear in your life, this is a sure sign that you humbled yourself before God with a godly sorrow. And now God's true characteristics are beginning to take shape in your life.

Reflection & Prayer

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