

BEST. SERMON. EVER.



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT MATTHEW 5-7

Matthew 5:1-12

The Upside Down Kingdom

1.10.20

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening questions (pick one or two to answer as a group)

1. Share a time you thought something was true, but turned out it wasn't.
2. What about the Christian life is contrary to what we would expect?

Main points

Key Question: What does it look like to live as a disciple in the Kingdom of God?

Two observations about the eight sayings of Jesus

1. These eight sayings are not commands but characteristics.
2. These eight sayings are not a map to blessing but a declaration of blessing.

Understanding "blessed".

Three layers of meaning:

1. To be happy
2. Salutation: Congratulations
3. Approved by God

Jesus radically redefines what it means to be blessed.

Response: You are blessed, not in spite of your position, but in your position.

Discussion Questions

Read the passage. Which of the eight sayings of Jesus stand out to you the most?

Here are eight questions to go with the eight sayings. Pick and choose what you want to focus on.

1. Matthew 5:1-3 teaches that spiritual beggars will possess the kingdom of heaven. How does recognizing ourselves as spiritual beggars affect the way we live each day? How can we cultivate this identity more?



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2. Citizens of God's kingdom should grieve over their sin and sin in the world. Are there some sins that seem easier for us to grieve over and some that we too often overlook? Why or why not?
3. How would you define "meekness". How does this characteristic shed light on what it means to be a disciple in the Kingdom?
4. How does God satisfy those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? What does our world say to "hunger and thirst for?"
5. Explain what "mercy" is. Why is being merciful a requirement for receiving mercy?
6. How can we tell whether we are "pure in heart"? It was said that living in the Kingdom of Heaven carries with it the "already, not yet" component. How does this characteristic relate to us living in the already, not yet Kingdom?
7. How does peace play a central part in the Bible's story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration? How can we reflect and participate in that story with our own peacemaking?
8. Why is persecution a necessary part of the Christian life? How does Christ's death and resurrection give us comfort in the face of persecution?

Our Response

We are blessed, not despite our position, but in our position.

9. In what area of your life is it hard to see yourself as blessed?

