

BEATITUDES – PART 2

MATTHEW 5:7-12

MBC LOUDOUN CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:7-12 ESV

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Think of yourself as a remodeling project – What can you “do” to “become” who you want to be?

SERMON RECAP

- The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most remarkable and memorable speeches in human history.
 - The power, truth, and simplicity of these words have pierced through every century since they were first spoken.
 - Jesus’ words are timeless.
- “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (Matthew 24:35).*”
 - After we are all dead and gone, in fact, when this broken world is no more - these words, and every other word of Jesus will still stand forever.
 - Jesus’ words are timely.
- The Sermon on the Mount is *timeless* and *timely* because the Creator of the universe, the designer of our souls... the King of all kings is delivering His most comprehensive treatment on what it means to be part of His kingdom.
 - Beatitudes are *not* about something you do; rather it’s about something you are.
 - Beatitudes are speaking less of a subjective feeling, and more of an objective reality.
 - Beatitudes do not describe the kind of person Jesus is looking for; they describe the kind of person into whom Jesus transforms you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Matthew 5:7-12 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.

- What does showing and receiving mercy look like?
- What do you think of when you think about purity?
- Besides Jesus, what peacemakers do you know about who were persecuted, and how did they respond to persecution?
- How would you summarize Matthew 5:7-12?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Mercy – Read Psalm 145:8-9
 - How are grace and mercy related?
 - How does mercy temper our anger?
 - When you think of Jesus’ example, how is God’s kingdom a kingdom of radical mercy?
2. Pure in Heart
 - What does a pure heart look like?
 - How does purity of heart relate to your relationship with God and with others?
 - How does purity reflect that your heart is honest, undivided, and transparent?
 - How did Jesus model purity of heart for us as He walked the earth?
3. Peacemakers – Read Colossians 1:20
 - How can the crucifixion – the most extreme act of depravity and violence – be emblematic of peace?
 - How is peace with God the greatest peace offered to us and to others?
 - How do Christians perform the act of peacemaking in the world?
4. Rejoicing in Persecution
 - What does it mean to find joy in persecution and what is the result of doing it?
 - What does it mean to be persecuted for righteousness’ sake?
 - When you consider all of the beatitudes, what does Jesus want you to be?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Seek mercy – Be merciful!
 - How have you seen and experienced God’s mercy in your life?
 - Where might you need to be a little more merciful with yourself and with others?
 - How can being concerned about, and helpful to others in need contribute to your witness?
 - How is your Church Group merciful to one another and to the world around you?
2. Want purity – Be clean!
 - What comes to mind when you think about pure living?
 - Where might you need to clean up a little?
 - How can being pure (clean) contribute to your witness?
 - What examples can you cite where your Church Group is modeling purity and cleanness to the world around you?
3. Desire peace – Look for joy in persecution!
 - How are you a peacemaker in your speech, actions, and social media?
 - Where do you go to find joy when you feel persecution?
 - How are you living the life remodeled by Jesus in the beatitudes?
 - How can your Church Group love the world who might be persecuting your Christian values?

LEADER NOTES

SUPPORT FOSTER CHILDREN | Your Church Group can play a vital role in supporting foster care families and children. Don't wait to take the next step and learn more about fostering, mentoring youth aging out of foster care, providing support to a foster family, and other ways to get involved at mcleanbible.org/foster.

PRAYING FOR NORTH KOREA | During lunch on Sunday, October 6, a pastor from South Korea will share his personal story of involvement in helping North Koreans. We will have an opportunity to pray together for him, for the people of North Korea, and for the spread of the gospel in North Korea. Lunch will be hosted at MBC Tysons and all MBC Locations are invited to join. Register in advance at mcleanbible.org/persecution; seats are limited.