

Neighborhood Life Group Guide

Matthew: The Beatitudes

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Matthew 5:1-16

February 4, 2018



Prayer: Take some time to pray for Kansas City and our local community. Ask God to use our church to bring the light of the gospel to people lost in darkness.

Read: Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

Matthew 5:1-16

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

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. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Discussion Questions

1. After reading Matthew 5:1-17, share some observations from the verses you've just read.

2. What from this week's sermon impacted you?

3. In each beatitude (i.e. statement of blessing), Jesus shares a specific description and a unique promise. Take some time to discuss the individual beatitudes using these questions: (1) Who exactly does Jesus say is blessed? (2) What exactly does Jesus promise? (3) How should this beatitude influence a follower of Jesus Christ?

- i. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit (Matthew 5:3)
- ii. Blessed are those who Mourn (Matthew 5:4)
- iii. Blessed are the Meek (Matthew 5:5)
- iv. Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- v. Blessed are the Merciful (Matthew 5:7)
- vi. Blessed are the Pure in Heart (Matthew 5:8)
- vii. Blessed are the Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)
- viii. Blessed are the Persecuted (Matthew 5:10-12)

4. Why do you think Jesus begins the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7) with the beatitudes? Do you see any patterns among the beatitudes? How might they be related to one another?

5. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus declares that his followers are "salt" and "light." What does this mean if you are a Christian?

6. Have you ever seen a believer or church lose its saltiness or have its light hidden? What causes "flavor-loss" and "light-dimming" among Christians?

7. Read John 8:12. How are John 8:12 and Matthew 5:16 related? What is one way that you can let your light shine this week?

Personal Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?

- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?

- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?

- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?

- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

Prayer: After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.