



The Life You've Always Wanted

Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)

Ice Breaker: Did you make any resolutions for this year? What is your biggest goal?

Becoming the Culture of the Kingdom of God

1. When you see that you are spiritually bankrupt without God's grace, you are truly blessed. Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Discuss: What does a spiritually bankrupt life look like?
Now make it personal - Describe your spiritually bankrupt thoughts, habits and typical behaviors.

2. When you repent for your sins, you will always experience the comfort and forgiveness of God. Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Discuss: What do you imagine God's comfort to look like?
What have you experienced in your own mourning?

3. When your heart's desire towards God is, "not my will but Your will be done," God will prosper you. Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." See also Psalm 37:11

Discuss: What is your internal definition of 'meek'?
What do you picture in your mind when you hear the word?
When you think of putting God's will before your own, what is your biggest fear?

4. When your appetite for God is greater than anything else, you will experience total satisfaction. Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Discuss: What is it to be 'filled'?

5. When you extend mercy, you can trust that God will graciously help you. Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Discuss: Whom do you struggle with showing mercy?
What does acting mercifully look like in your day to day?

6. When you allow God to direct your heart, He will lead you to Himself. Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." See also Matthew 15:18-19

Discuss: What does it mean to be pure in heart?
How does purity of heart play out in your life?

7. When you pursue peace with others, you are declaring which Kingdom you belong to. Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Discuss: Using your own experience, describe a peacemaker vs a peacekeeper?
What can you do to make peace today?

8. When you are persecuted for righteousness, consider yourself in good company. Matthew 5:10-12 “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Discuss: Have you experienced persecution for the sake of Christ?
What did your experience with persecution look like? What have you learned?

Reflect:

As we look at the Beatitudes, it can be easy to judge ourselves and others and find fault in all the ways that we don't measure up. Take some time to ask God for His assessment on your life. How does HE see you? Ask Him to help you in the areas where you struggle. He is our source for living according to His teachings so ask Him to empower you to live out what He teaches through His Word.