

Discussion questions

a. Which areas of discipleship do you find easy, and why? And which ones do you struggle with, and why?

b. In what ways would someone who knows you well, say that there has been a positive inner transformation in your life during the last year? Why would they say that? And in which areas are you going to ask the Holy Spirit to work within you?

c. How is the Lord expecting you to act with meekness this week?

d. How do the values of your workplace, or school, or family match the Beatitudes, and where do they differ? How might your life make a positive difference?

e. Do you believe that the Father approves of your life and lifestyle? If “yes”, why? If “no”, why not, and what are you going to change?

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to Him, ² and He began to teach them.

He said:

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

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *‘Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*

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

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7

How to be a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven

What sort of life will you live?

Jesus must be your only Lord, Matthew 6:24

Inside-out transformation

The Beatitudes, vv3-12

Latin: *“beatus”* – *“blessed”* = approval

What should my attitude be like?

Foundation stones of faith, c.f. *“Wise & foolish builders”*, 7:24-27

Values – unseen, like foundations

1. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven”*, v3

“The place from which you get your life force”

a. I don't have true life outside of God

b. I choose to be in a wholly dependent relationship with God

2. *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”*, v4

3. *“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth”*, v5

Not weak

Meek = the willingness to live by another's agenda

Choice: God's way or my way?

4. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for*

they will be filled”, v6

The outflow of meekness is a hunger and thirst for righteousness

5. *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy”*, v7

“Mercy triumphs over judgment!”, James 2:13b

6. *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”*, v8

What we look at...

What we dwell on...

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me”, Psalm 51:10

7. *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God”*, v9

Reconciliation with God, and with humans, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Like Father, like daughter/son

8. *“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”*, v10

Persecution is a sign that we are Jesus' disciples

Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your foundations

a. What are your values? Will you choose to repent?

b. What are your foundations? Will you choose to repent?

c. Does the Father approve of your life and lifestyle? Will you choose to repent?