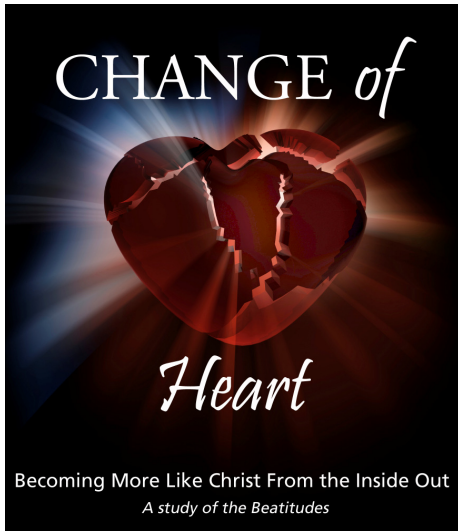


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



A Tender Heart

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

1Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2and he began to teach them saying:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10Blessed 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. 12Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 7:36-50: Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

36Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, 38and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

40Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."
"Tell me, teacher," he said.

41"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. 42Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

43Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

48Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, October 14

Big Idea: We become more like Christ on the inside when we come to face to face with the truth about ourselves and the world.

Key Verse:

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you this past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passages.

Discussion Questions

1. **What would people's lives look like if they lived it with a "Come as You Are" attitude?** (*Leaders note: by this I mean, what if we looked at every person we encountered through the mindset of the church Bryan spoke about—"come as you are"*)
2. Draw a comparison between the Pharisee's view of the woman and Jesus' view of the woman in the Luke passage. What differences do you see?
3. **"Mercy chooses to respond to the need instead of reacting to the sin". What needs do you see evident in the people and communities in which you live? How can you respond to those needs as an individual and as a group?**
4. Is there anyone in your life who you have been unmerciful towards? How can you be merciful to them now? What help do you need to make this real in your life? (*Leaders: have your group take some time to think about this. They may or may not want to voice their answer to this question. The question is driving us to be more personal in our application of this Beatitude. This is a great question to leave with the group asking them to work on it this coming week and even report back on next week.*)
5. **What would your life look like if you lived it with a "Come as You Are" attitude?**

Leaders Notes

1. *An excellent resource for this series are the books The Sermon on the Mount by John Stott (his section on the Beatitudes is one of the best I have ever read) and Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard (this is a much deeper book to read through.)*
2. *The next 8 weeks focus on these 8 verses out of Matthew. With the focus being Christ-likeness challenge your group to read through the gospel of John, paying special attention to chapter 14-15.*