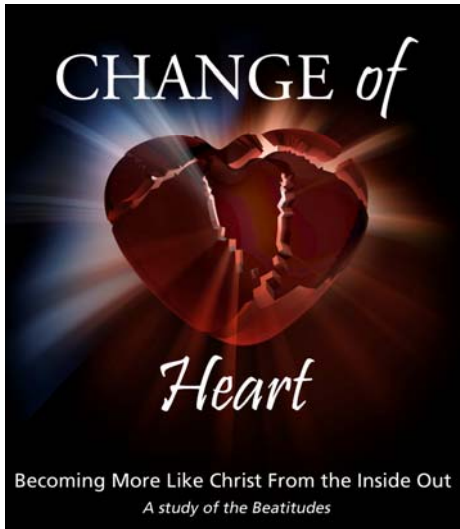


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



*A Desperate  
Heart*

**Matthew 5:1-12**

**The Beatitudes**

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

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 sons 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.

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, September 16

**Big Idea:** We become more like Christ on the inside when we realize we have nothing to offer, and learn to trust God for everything, instead of trusting ourselves.

**Key Verse:**

*Matthew 5:3:* Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Opening Question:** Share an experience you had with someone who is poor?

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

Read the passage.

**Discussion Questions**

1. “The heart is the control center of a person’ life” Discuss why or why not this is true.
2. Bryan described being blessed as “having the fullness of God’s life bestowed on human life”. What might this look like in reality?
3. Bryan described “poor in spirit” as being dependant on God, even desperate for God. How was Jesus dependant on God and even desperate for God?
4. **Bryan said, “The Kingdom of God is not a place we go to someday but a life available to us now...only the poor in spirit can have this”. How do you respond to this statement? How did Bryan describe developing a condition of being “poor in spirit”? (*Leaders: Bryan spoke about this being a condition we confess. One phrase he used about Jesus was that he lived in conscious, continual dependence on His Father—ask your group if this is how their relationship with God would be described, then look at question 5*).**
5. **What is preventing you from developing a desperate heart, a “poor in spirit” condition? (*Leaders, have your group do an exercise. Ask them to think through the past week or month looking at activities, actions, people and attitudes they have had or encountered. Did their response show a desperate heart, a person consciously, continually depending on God? What was preventing them from having a desperate heart?*)**
6. **If your heart was more desperate for God, how would that change in your control center change your life? What would change in your life (thoughts, wills, attitudes, actions, words)?**
7. **Explore together how you can begin developing a desperate heart.**

Close your time in worship and prayer together seeking to become more dependant and desperate for God.

### 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.
3. For those groups and individuals wanting to go deeper look for Thomas More's "A Godly Meditation". It is public domain and can be found in the book Spiritual Classics, editors Richard Foster and Emily Griffin.
4. Also, for prayers and reflection questions look at John Wesley's daily prayers, especially Tuesday as he focuses on humility.