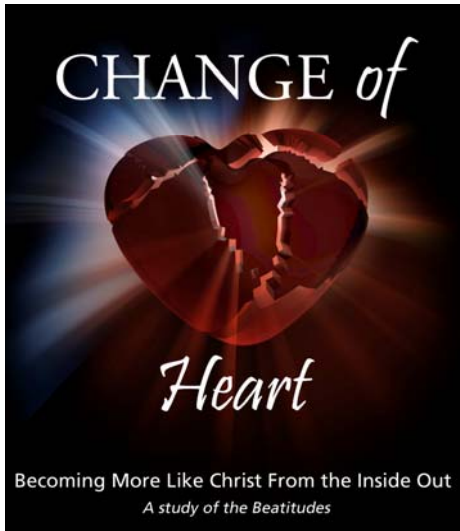


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



# A Transformed Heart

**Matthew 5:1-12**

**The Beatitudes**

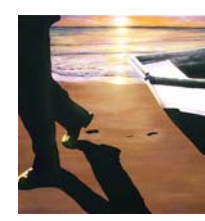
1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them saying:

- 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.

**Romans 12**

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, Nov 18

**Big Idea:** We become more like Christ on the inside when we choose to change.

**Key Verse:**

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**Opening Questions:**

1. What are people thankful for during this Thanksgiving?

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

Read the passages.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Is there some part of your life that is in the midst of change right now? What is it and how do you feel about it?
2. Read through the Beatitudes together. Which beatitude have you been thinking most about during the past several weeks?
3. **Read Romas 12:1-2.**
4. **These verses speak about the kind of change that takes place within us as we become more like Christ. What in these verses suggest that transformation is a choice that we make? What in these verses suggest that change is a result of God's work in your life?**
5. Allow the pictures on the front of the study guide to remind you of the 8 beatitudes. Which picture represents the kind of change that your heart is most in need of?
6. What are some things that you can do to make the change possible? What are some things that God needs to do in your heart to make that change possible?
7. How is true change/transformation different that what one person calls 'sin management'?
8. **Would anyone like to share what they wrote on the hearts outside of the sanctuary after the service on Sunday. If you could have written something, what might you have written?**

**Pray for one another.**

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.*