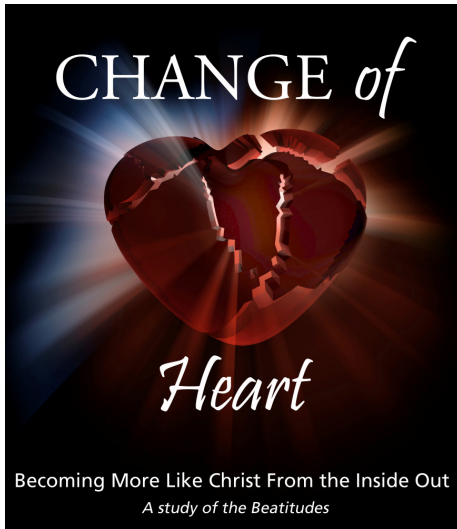


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



A Broken 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 23

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 5:4: Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

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

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

Read the passage.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss this statement: “Nobody wants to mourn, even in the church”.
2. **Bryan mentioned what one person calls the “Grace Chapel Glow”. Basically, putting on a mask over the reality of your situation. Why do you think people are unable to share how they really are doing at church?**
3. To mourn means to feel and express grief, to be brokenhearted. What are some of the things we can mourn over (both physical and spiritual)?
4. Bryan said that mourning is to face the truth about ourselves and the world. What are some of the things that frustrate you about the world, which give you heartache or pain, or cause you to want to make a difference? Bill Hybels calls this your God-given “holy discontent”. What are you doing about your “holy discontent”?
5. How does the Bible describe sin—what images or word pictures does it use? (*The Bible makes use of several word pictures for sin, e.g. pictures like missing the mark or stepping over the boundary*)
6. **Why do we find it so difficult to mourn over our sin?**
7. **What needs to change in us for us to truly mourn over our sin—to be broken hearted over our sin?**
8. **Bryan said that only when we come face to face with our sin can we be saved from sin. King David in 2 Samuel 11 is described committing some heinous sins. In chapter 12 he is brought face to face with these sins and their consequences. Take some time to read through selected portions of these chapters. One of the most powerful psalms written by David is Psalm 51, which is David’s heartfelt response of confession because of his sin. Take time at the end of the study to pray together. Lead people through prayers of confession and repentance, using this psalm to guide them (pay close attention to verse 17). This is what a mourning person is. Have people in your group take time to privately confess their sins, then lead them through prayers using Scripture (like 1 John 1:9) to declare to them that their sins are forgiven. Of course, this is only possible through a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. It is entirely appropriate to even take communion as a group together.**

End your time with some worship for the God who forgives our sin.

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. Use Psalm 51 in the exercise at the end as you lead people through prayers of confession and repentance.
4. Continue to remind your group that the Heart is the control center of a person's life and that these 8 Beatitudes are 8 characteristics of a Christ-like Heart. They are not optional to transformation, but essentials of transformation.