

LIFE Community Sermon Notes



A Surrendered 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.

Psalm 37:1-11

Of David.

- 1 Do not fret because of evil men
or be envious of those who do wrong;
- 2 for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
- 3 Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
- 4 Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
- 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
- 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when men succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- 9 For evil men will be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.
- 10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.
- 11 But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy great peace.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, September 30

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

Opening Question:

Share one high point, one low point and one spiritual point from your 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. Discuss this statement: “Self-renunciation is the way to world-dominion”.**
- Bryan spoke a lot about yielding your life, surrendering your heart to the things you want. Why does this seem to be something so alien in our culture and world?
- How does Jesus show his meekness?
- 4. Read through Psalm 37:1-11. Have your group make two lists: List 1 are the actions a person is encouraged to do; List 2 are the actions that God does.**
- 5. Which of the actions from list 1 do you find hardest? Why? How can you work on that action this coming week?**
- 6. Is there something tangible that you can work on surrendering to God this week?** (*As a leader avoid the tendency of people to just say their heart. Push your group to think of something specific in their lives that they are holding onto, fretting over or chasing after. What is that thing? Will they surrender it to God this week?*)
7. Now is a good time to do a “gut-check”. How serious are you about being transformed into Christ-likeness this year? Remember that these Beatitudes are not optional add-ons to the Christ-like heart, they are the Christ-like heart. Which of the three Beatitudes has given you the greatest challenge? How can your group pray for you this coming week in that area?

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. 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.