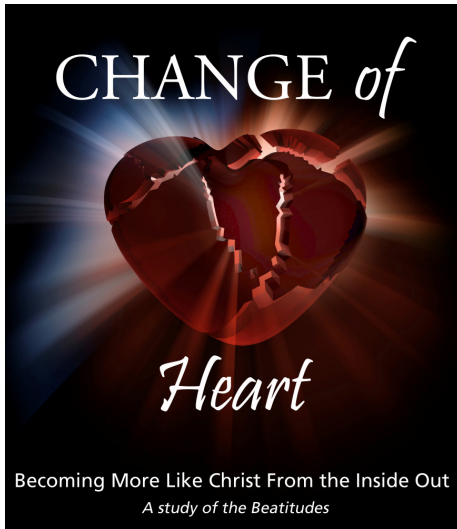


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



A Hungry 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.

Matthew 4

The Temptation of Jesus

1Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

11Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, October 7

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 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Opening Question:

Share an experience you have had with hunger or thirst.

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: “The more we try to satisfy our appetites, the more our appetites demand.”**
2. Jesus displayed a commitment to hunger and thirst for righteousness in his temptation. What were the three types of temptations that Jesus faced?
3. What was Jesus response to each of those temptations?
4. How did his response show a hunger and thirst for righteousness?
5. **John Stott in his section on this Beatitude shows the Bible has at least three aspects to righteousness: legal, moral and social. Legal righteousness is justification, having a right relationship with God. Moral righteousness is the righteousness of character and conduct which pleases God. Social righteousness is a hunger for righteousness in the whole human community. How are you and your group hungering and thirsting for righteousness in the legal, moral and social aspects?**
6. **This coming week try a group fast as a symbol of deciding to hunger and thirst for righteousness. While there are many types of fast the most symbolic fast in this instance is a commitment to not eat (and maybe not drink) for a period of time. Those who have experience fasting may want to try for two or three days, while less experienced “fasters” may want to try for two or three meals. During the meal times that you are fasting, pray through the picture of who you are and who you might become during this year of transformation. Especially pray through the three aspects of righteousness for your group.**

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. *Fasting is a good spiritual discipline to engage in. As we try to discipline our bodies with fasting it does bring greater spiritual clarity. As a leader challenge your group to attempt a fast this week. If you are doing a food fast there are three types: a dry fast (no food or drink for a specified period), a normal fast (no food for a specified period) or a select fast (certain types of food are given up). Pick a fast that is realistic for your group and a time frame that makes the most sense. Then challenge the group to do it.*