

The Sermon on the Mount



16 Week Small Group Discussion

- Leader Manual

“Sermon on the Mount”

Small Group Discussion

Section 1 - Week 1

Introduction - Read Matthew 5: 1, 2

- This was more of a “teaching” than a “sermon.”
- Jesus’ purpose was to impart and teach, not just give an oratory speech.
- We can also read a similar teaching in Luke 6. That teaching was given at a different time and place. The precepts of this teaching were so important that Jesus taught it at least twice in two different places.
- What does the term “disciple” mean? - *It is a student, a pupil; one who changes their lifestyle to the one that they are choosing to follow.*

Matthew 5:3 - 12 - The “Beatitudes” - The “Blessings”

- The term we use “beatitudes” comes from a Latin word which means “blessings.”
- What do we think the term “blessed” means - *Happy, joyful, spiritually, prosperous to the point of being envied by others*.
 - The whole point of these “blessings” is twofold
 - 1) When we walk with the attitude heart of desiring to live and express the character aspects that Jesus is teaching, we will experience wonderful blessings within our lives.
 - 2) The most important aspect of receiving these blessings by reason of living this Christ like lifestyle, is to allow others to see how good God is to His people so that others would want that same relationship with God - this was the original purpose of the Jewish people. This is now to be the purpose of the Christian - to provoke others to jealousy, Jew and Gentile alike.
- The word “blessed” is used 9 times - In Hebrew literature when a word, phrase, or thought is expressed more than once in the same context, the writer is bringing the point to the reader or listener, “exponentially.” - “blessed” to the ninth power = blessed x 1,000,000,000 (one billion) will be the blessings upon those that follow this lifestyle.
- It is vital that when we hear these words of Jesus, we listen with idea that He is teaching His disciples (then and now) what the true **character** and **lifestyle** of a child of God should be.
- There are three “aspects” of each Christ like character and “beatitude/blessing” that Jesus teaches His disciples
 - 1) The declaration of the fact that there is a blessing to be experienced by those who listen, obey, and make the characteristic that Jesus is about to express as being a part of the “attitude of the their heart” and making it a part of the lifestyle - “Blessed are...”
 - 2) The precise “heart change” to be taken by the individual in expressing their desire for God
 - 3) The blessing that will be experienced because of that “heart change” within the individual’s life.

Read Matthew 5:3

- Blessings declared - "Blessed are..." - Happy, joyful, spiritually, prosperous to the point of being envied by others
- What is the "heart change" to be taken by the individual - "...poor in spirit"
What does Jesus mean by this? (*Let your members have an opportunity to share what they think this means to them then proceed with reviewing the items below*)
 - Having a true encounter with God
 - Recognizing who God really is and who you really are not.
 - It all starts here. It is realizing your need for God in your life thereby, recognizing your need for a savior to take you out of the "pit of hell" and rescue you into salvation.
 - It is casting aside your self-righteousness, arrogance and everything of self - taking yourself off the "throne" of your life and choosing to allow Him to be the Lord (the absolute, supreme and final authority") of your life.
 - It means to be "born again." You cannot go any further in anything resembling a Christian walk unless this takes place first. This is where Christianity can begin to be a lifestyle in a person's heart and not just a religion.
- The blessing of the "heart change" - "...the Kingdom of Heaven"
 - Eternal life
 - Becoming a "son/child of God" having all the privileges that belong to a child of the King.

What does today's teaching saying to you, personally?

(Allow the members in your group to briefly share)

Homework for this week - Meditate on and memorize if possible Matthew 5: 3