

NOVEMBER QUESTIONS

Discussion Questions WEEK 1

READ MATTHEW 5:1-12 (BEATITUDES)

To begin, compare and contrast GOD'S kingdom, to the world's kingdom.

1. **How does the world (media, culture, government, etc.) say we should live?**

Examples:

- You need to be selfish to succeed
- You need to be successful to be important
- You need to be prideful to be recognized
- You need others approval
- You need to be skinny to be pretty
- You need to have sex before marriage to be experienced
- You need to hold in your emotions to be “strong”

*We all live with a certain lens in which we view the world. We need to stop viewing life according to the world's standards, and start seeing the world how God sees it--through His Kingdom.

2. **How does the kingdom of God (in this passage) say we should live?**

- Blessed are the poor in spirit - understanding our spiritual bankruptcy
- Blessed are those who mourn - mourning over our rebellion against God and injustice in the world, and also mourning over general loss. God actively comforts those who mourn as they come to Him.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness - actively desiring and pursuing justice
- Blessed are the merciful - those who forgive others will also be forgiven by God
- Blessed are the pure in heart - Sincerity of heart, good intentions
- Blessed are the peacemakers - agents that bring about peace in a fragmented world (not “peacekeepers, who avoid conflict to keep peace)
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake - choosing God's righteousness over others approval.
- Blessed are you when others persecute you on the Lord's account - Proclaiming faith in Jesus despite persecution from others for your faith.

3. **How can you thirst for righteousness (justice) AND be merciful at the same time?** (no right or wrong answer, just get people thinking here).

4. **How do we make *practice* of being poor in spirit, of being meek, of hungering and thirsting for righteousness, etc.?**

(Ex. intentionally making time for reading scripture, taking time to remember the injustices that currently exist in our world, regularly giving to an organization financially that fights injustice, spending time with the down-and-out, sharing your story/brokenness with others (confession), repenting of sin, etc. There could be many more answers for this question. These are just ideas!).

5. **Putting your life under a microscope (your marriage, your job, school, your relationships, etc.), which of the beatitudes do you most struggle with? Why?**