

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Kingdom Promises” Matthew 5:1-11 August 10, 2019

Getting Started

Every principle carries a promise, but when the promise carries us, we live by no ordinary principles, but instead KINGDOM PRINCIPLES.

We were all raised by someone, and we were raised to believe certain things were true and normal and the way everyone should live. **Share with your group one of the unforgettable life lessons you were taught while growing up.**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus introduces something greater: the way a Christian should live. These 3 chapters in Matthew will show us what it can look like when God’s people choose to live naturally supernatural lives.

Going Deeper:

I. Vertical Pursuit: Love God

1. Requires Personal Introspection: (Vs. 3-4)
 1. Our Attitude toward Self: *“poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* (Vs. 3)
 2. Our Attitude toward Sin: *“those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”* (Vs. 4)

Personal introspection always leads us to humility, as we see our faults and weaknesses. It is when we know we are not righteous, that we can then look up and see Christ in His righteousness. **Read Luke 18:10-14. How has God taught you to be humble and to mourn over your sin?**

2. Reveals a Practical Expectation:

1. Our Attitude toward Submission: *“the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”* (Vs. 5)
2. Our Attitude toward Satisfaction: *“those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”* (Vs. 6)

Our world is obsessed with hungering and thirsting, and it's not for righteousness, but rather for possessions, power, position, and perks. Instead of trying to possess the whole earth, maybe we could practice meekness and let our hungers and thirsts be pointed toward righteous living in relationship with God and others. **Read Mark 8:36. What strong warning does Jesus give us? Matthew 5:6 promises us we will find satisfaction if we do what?**

II. **Horizontal Principles: Love People**

1. Requires Perspective in every Situation:

1. Our Attitude towards Sympathy: *“the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”* (Vs. 7)
2. Our Attitude towards Sincerity: *“pure in heart, for they shall see God.”* (Vs. 8)
3. Our Attitude towards Strife: *“peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”* (Vs.9)

In a culture dominated by marketing that often over promises and under delivers, social media that allows people to exhibit their rudest and vilest opinions, and an overall polarization on many topics, we have become jaded and often treat others with suspicion. Jesus' way of living among people is remarkably refreshing. Let's show mercy and sympathy to the hurting, rather than casting judgment. Let's celebrate those who operate from a pure heart, rather than focusing on the many who lie their way through life. Let's work hard to bring peaceful solutions to challenging issues. **Which of these three do you think God wants you to focus on in your life right now? What does that look like?**

2. Reveals how to Prevail in Defamation:

1. Our Attitude towards Suffering: *“persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* (Vs.10)
2. Our Attitude towards Slander: *“when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Vs. 11-12)

Read Romans 12:14, and 12:17-21. From these verses, make a list of the naturally supernatural ways you can respond to persecution and slander. Ask someone in your group to hold you accountable this week to start living this way.

Take Away: The Beatitudes teach us how to live with the “Action of Blessing” by first having an “Attitude of Blessing”

Prayer:

Pray for one another that you will be strong in faith when the doubts come.