

## Week 10: A Beatitude Life

*Jesus is not describing eight different persons but is describing eight different qualities of the same person.*

– Darrell Johnson

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

**Theme: Jesus invited us to discover blessedness through a beatitude filled life.**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

**Icebreaker:** What has been a highlight for you over the past 10 weeks, aside from being a part of this amazing small group experience?

**Opening Prayer:** Have a member of the group offer a prayer to start the meeting.

Example Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us what it means to be persecuted for doing what is right and true, so that we can discover the beauty of your eternal kingdom. In Jesus name, Amen.*

### **WEEK 10 BEATITUDE MEDITATION: Read Matthew 5:3-12 together.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Discuss:**

- Which Beatitudes do you connect with the most? Why?
- Which Beatitudes do you struggle with? Why?
- Which Beatitude do you want to spend more time in, so you can gain a deeper understanding of God and his care in your life?
- How did study together help change your perception of blessedness/happiness? Why?

### **WEEK 10 SERMON DISCUSSION:**

This week we heard from various people in our congregations about the role our study of the beatitudes had on their spiritual journey.

- What were some of the highlights they shared about the beatitudes?
- Did they say anything that you found encouraging? If so, what did they say?
- How did their spiritual journey enhance your understanding of God's blessedness?
- What is a word of encouragement you would like to share with the speakers?

**QUOTE: Darrell Johnson**

In the Beatitudes, Jesus is not describing eight different kinds of people, rather he is describing eight qualities of the same person. The eight kingdom qualities are all interrelated and the order in which Jesus presents them is no accident.

- What are the eight beatitude qualities and what do they mean?
- How are they interrelated?
- How do they build upon each other?
- How does this building upon each other strengthen us as believer and the church?

**QUOTE: Darrell Johnson**

The first line of the Sermon on the Mount is not 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, *therefore* theirs is the Kingdom.' If it were, *therefore*, we would try to become poor in spirit in order to get in on the Kingdom, and we would end up being proud that we were humble enough to be humble. Poverty of spirit, mourning, gentleness, hungering, and thirsting for righteousness, mercy, purity in heart, peacemaking, and being persecuted are all. The result of the Gospel breaking through to us. They are the consequences of turning around and embracing the reign of Jesus Christ.

- Why is *therefore* not the right word when listing the promise of blessedness in the beatitude?
- How might we tend to live as though it says *therefore* and miss out on God's blessedness?
- How should we embrace these beatitudes in order to see the Gospel breaking through in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

**THE GOOD LIFE VIDEO WEEK 10 (with Derwin Gray)**

Videos can be accessed at [www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos](http://www.barmillscommunitychurch.org/goodlifevideos).

This weeks lesson contains clips from the lessons on Peacemakers and Persecuted.

**Watch The Good Life Video 10**

- Derwin suggest that through the beatitudes Jesus is revealing the good life which is about our becoming good. How do these beatitudes help us become good?
- Derwin talks about how imagination is the first step toward becoming. How can we imagine the beatitudes in our lives and how can our imagination lead to reality of the Kingdom of God being alive in our lives?
- Derwin talks about how the beatitudes to impact us and transform us into citizens of the Kingdom of God.
  - What do you think the Kingdom of God is?
  - Why does he emphasize citizenship into God's kingdom, and why is citizenship important?
- How are love, understanding, and happiness interrelated in a beatitude shaped life?
- Derwin says that his life was impacted and transformed by diving into the Beatitudes.
  - Can you relate with his experience?
  - Consider sharing how your experience has transformed you.

**Wrap-up:**

- Is there anything you would like to add or discuss in regards to the beatitudes?
- How can your small group encourage and support each other to live our the beatitudes and God's happiness in each other's lives?

## **HAVE FUN:**

The very last page is a coloring page. Takes some time either during the group or on your own and color through each of the beatitudes. As you color each word, pray that God would cultivate that quality in your life.

## **HAPPINESS MANIFESTO**

Derwin wraps up his book with A Happiness Manifesto, encouraging his reader and viewers to seek God's blessed happiness along their journey of life.

I declare that all I would ever hope to be is found in all of who Jesus is.  
My life is hidden in his life. His life is my life.  
As a gift of grace, Jesus lived a sinless life because I couldn't.  
In his unending mercy, Jesus died the death I should have to atone for my sin.  
Today, I am free from the power of sin and death.  
Because of his great love for me, I am a holy, blameless, righteous, adopted child of God.  
I am pleasing to the Father because I am in his beloved Son.  
The happiness I seek can never be satisfied by created things.  
The happiness I was created to experience is not found in happenings.  
True happiness is more about God making me good than good things happening to me.  
Today, I declare that I choose happiness because I choose Jesus, his kingdom, and his glory.  
Today, I declare that I will choose the ways of his kingdom,  
the truth of his gospel, and live from his life.

## **WEEK 10 WRAP-UP**

### **Read Matthew 5:3-11 Out loud together as a group.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Closing Prayer:** How can the group pray for you and others to have a "blessed" (*makarios*) week?  
Have a group member close in prayer or provide an opportunity for all members to pray for each other.

**Blessed are the...**

poor in spirit

mourning

meek

righteous hungry

merciful

purehearted

peacemakers

persecuted

**for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.**