

Life Group Homework

Uncovering the Secrets of a Blessed Life

Matthew 5:1-12

Let's Get Started:

People have various ideas of what a *blessed* life should be. How would you answer if a non-believer were to ask you, “*What does it mean when Christians say they have a ‘blessed’ life? Don’t Christians have just as many troubles as any other religious groups?*”

Let's Dig In:

Begin by reading Matthew 5:12

1. **If the Sermon on the Mount exposes man’s sinfulness and imperfections, explain what Jesus meant in Matthew 5 when He said these two statements:**

a. “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (vs. 20)

b. “Be perfect even as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (vs. 48)

2. **Blessedness: Would you agree or disagree with the following statements and why:**

a. Blessedness is not related to material things.

b. Blessedness is available to all people.

c. Blessedness is opposite of the culture’s definition of a good life.

3. **Share a personal or family trial that you later realized God used to be a blessing.**

4. **The Beatitudes**

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

Is spiritual poverty good or bad? How would you describe spiritual poverty?

Beatitude Two: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

What kind of mourning do you think Jesus is referring to here? How can a period of mourning be considered a blessing for the Christian?

Beatitude Three: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

From a biblical perspective, what is the difference between meekness and weakness and why is meekness a Christian virtue?

Why do the meek inherit the earth? Do they earn it? If they don't earn such an incredible gift how do they obtain this inheritance?

Find 2 scriptures that support the fact that true believers receive the blessing of an eternal inheritance.

Scripture #1: _____

Scripture #2: _____

Beatitude Four: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

The goal of every disciple of Jesus is not happiness but H _ _ _ _ _ S.

Read Romans 8:28-30. Christians are called according to God's purpose. What is God's purpose for you?

Beatitude Five: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

What was God's purpose for the mercy seat as described in Leviticus 16:16?

What is the difference between grace and mercy?

How have you experienced God's mercy in your life recently?

Beatitude Six: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

A pure heart is not confused about who it is devoted to. Read James 1:6-8, James 4:8 and Matthew 6:24. What theme do these passages have in common?

Beatitude Seven: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

For some of us, we might describe peace as an absence of conflict. Read John 14:27. What kind of peace does the world try to offer?

What kind of peace does Jesus offer?

Let's Live It Out Together:

Beatitude Eight: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Most Christians pray for less conflict, fair and just treatment, and an untroubled life when it comes to things like being slandered, hated or punished for supporting biblical standards of morality. But Jesus warned us that persecution for righteousness sake should be expected and viewed as "normal" in the life of a disciple.

Read John 15:18-20; Philippians 1:29 and I Peter 4:12.

Pray for and encourage anyone in your group that is going through a situation where they are being persecuted or mistreated for righteousness sake. Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill them with the love

of Christ and that His peace will allow them to be a blessing, even in the midst of unfair or unjust treatment.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25*