

MATTHEW 5:1-16 / OCTOBER 4

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This begins our journey through the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus shows us what life in his kingdom looks like. As a group, read Matthew 5:1–16. As you read, notice the kind of person Jesus calls “blessed” and how different that life looks from what we naturally pursue. After reading, spend time in silent prayer. What stood out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life?

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group. Focus especially on:

- True life begins when our life ends. God’s kingdom breaks into our lives as we come to the end of ourselves and recognize our need for Jesus.
- The Beatitudes are not things we do to get into God’s kingdom; they show what happens when God’s kingdom gets into us.
- “End of me” people increasingly reflect the character of Jesus through humility, righteousness, mercy, authenticity, and peacemaking.
- A life changed by Jesus becomes a bold witness—distinct from the world while actively engaging it as salt and light.

Group Discussion

1. Look again at Matthew 5:3–12. What qualities does Jesus say characterize people in his kingdom? Which of these descriptions most surprises or challenges you?
2. Jesus begins, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Pastor Bryan described this as coming to God with a “disposition of desperation.” Why is recognizing our need for God essential to life in his kingdom?
3. The sermon says the Beatitudes are not things we do to get into the kingdom, but evidence that the kingdom has gotten into us. How does that distinction change the way you read Jesus’ words?
4. Jesus says, “Blessed are those who mourn.” Pastor Bryan connected this both to suffering and to grieving our own sin. Where might God be using something painful to bring you to the end of yourself and draw you closer to him?
5. Jesus calls his disciples salt and light—distinct from the world but engaged with it. Where has God placed you to be a bold witness for Jesus? What might it look like to “get out of the salt shaker” this week?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:

Where are you still resisting coming to the end of yourself?

RESPOND:

Which beatitude do you most want Jesus to grow in you?

REACH:

Where can you intentionally be salt and light this week?

PRAYER

- ☐ Ask God to reveal where you are relying on yourself instead of recognizing your need for him.
- ☐ Pray that the character of Jesus described in the Beatitudes would increasingly become visible in your life.
- ☐ Ask God for boldness to live as salt and light in the places and relationships where he has sent you.