



July 9, 2023

Gospel of the Kingdom #blessed

Matthew 5:1-12

Summary – Jesus opens His first recorded sermon with an attention getter. He declares to all who would listen that the path to blessedness is a road less traveled. In stark contrast to the culture of the day that took health, wealth, and power as signs of God’s blessings, Jesus says it is the spiritual bankrupt, grieving, powerless door mats that have the keys to blessings and happiness.

Scripture – Genesis 32:1-26; Revelation 21:4-5; Jude 21; Jeremiah 31:33

Community Group Questions

Stuff That Happens To You (Matt. 5:3-6)

- What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?
- “Prosperity grows flowers, pain grows redwoods.”
- In the Hebrew tradition, “the meek” is synonymous with “people who are oppressed and/or have a loss of power.” What are the challenges/benefits of embracing meekness in our lives?
- “Righteousness is a right relationship with God and with people.” What conditions in life have led you to “hunger and thirst for righteousness”?

Stuff We Do (Matt. 5:7-9)

- How can we look for the mercy of Jesus? (Jude 21)
- “There’s no better river to be in than God’s mercy river.”
- What does it mean to be “pure in heart”?
- Discuss the differences between being a peacemaker and being peaceful.

Stuff People Do To Us (Matt. 5:10-12)

- “The best weapon we have in life is to rejoice in it.”
- The imprisoned Romanian pastor said, “Do you threaten me with glory?” How can we adopt this mindset?