

Matthew chapter 5 (Blessedness) – Matthew 5: 1-12

Ice Breaker Idea: Share a high and/or low from this week

Questions:

1. What has been your understanding of the word blessing? In what ways do you give blessing? In what ways do you seek blessing from others?
2. We discussed the need to empty ourselves to be filled by the Lord. What does this process of emptying look like? What challenges stand in the way?
3. “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling”. In what ways do these lyrics challenge us? In what ways can they be a comfort?
4. Showing mercy, pursuing peace, having a pure heart – which of these seems most challenging to you? In what ways does God strengthen you in these areas?
5. What is the difference between passively and actively seeking peace? How have you served as a peacemaker in your family, work, church? How have you seen others serve as peacemakers in these settings?
6. A life of discipleship means that persecution in some form is likely. How can we prepare ourselves and our families for this reality?

“Digging Deeper”

Read Psalm 51 (including the inscription at the beginning)

1. What was David going through when he wrote this Psalm? How does that impact your understanding of these words?
2. What are some of the requests that David is making of God to perform in his life (i.e., wash me, purge me, etc. – what others do you see?) Which of these are you also in need of? Discuss what effect these things would have on your life.
3. Read v. 16 - 17 – what does God truly find pleasing in the life of His people? (Hint: it’s not animal sacrifices!). What would these things look like in your life?