

THE BEATITUDES // Luke 6:20-23

from the "Kingdom Life" mini-series within the Gospel of Luke

The Sermon on the Plain, as it is referred to in the gospel of Luke, begins with the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are a set of characteristics of those who are disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus is speaking directly to his disciples, giving them instruction on how they ought to live out their faith.

The major takeaway from this sermon is that Kingdom Life is antithetical to the world. In other words, if you're going to be a disciple and faithful follower of Christ, you've got to go against the flow: your life must look DIFFERENT. But what does it mean for our lives to look "different?"

1. Poverty is your Perspective

This doesn't mean that being poor gives you any sort of spiritual brownie points; rather, it refers to a spiritual poverty that recognizes that in front of a holy God, we are spiritually poor and in need of God's spiritual richness.

2. Hunger is your Habit

The appetite that the Spirit has placed in our souls can only be satisfied by Christ Himself.

3. Grief is your Gain

We are grieved by over substantial theological, spiritual, and supernatural issues. We are grieved over things for which the world has little concern.

4. Suffering is your Status

As followers of Jesus, we will experience some degree of suffering, whether through violence, avoidance, harassment, or rejection. The goal is not to flee or be delivered from suffering – the goal is to endure.

As followers of Christ, we have the deeply personal task of assessing our own lives in light of Luke 6:20-23. Living a Kingdom Life requires that we truly take a stand against the brokenness of the world, and the Beatitudes offer us marks of a life lived in that way. Do we dare to be different?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be "poor," as described in Luke 6:20? How might you integrate that sort of poverty in your life?
2. Consider the hunger that God has placed in your soul. If you were to be completely honest with yourself, where or from whom are you seeking satisfaction?
3. Can you remember a time when God has caused you to be grieved over a particular people group, issue, topic, etc.? If so, please share it. If not, pray that God would let you be grieved over something for which the world has little concern.
4. Most of us have never had to face true persecution for being a Christian. However, we've all likely experienced some degree of suffering for our faith – broken relationships, feelings of exclusion, etc. What are some ways that you have suffered for being a follower of Christ?
5. Think of all that it might cost as well as all that you might gain to live a life that is antithetical to the world. How might your life change if you dared to be different? Would it be worth it?