

Matthew 5: 1-7

Suggested Questions based on Sunday 12 September's talk

- Visit the Church Website's homepage to view Sunday's service on Facebook or Youtube).
- You may find it useful to use the sermon notes to help discuss various questions. These can be found on the Inspiring Resources Page.

To start

- What is your understanding of what it means to 'blessed'?
- What does it mean to 'bless' someone?
- Share examples of when you have blessed or been blessed by someone.

Setting: The Beatitudes in Context

Wilkins, a Bible commentator writes: *The Beatitudes open the Sermon on the Mount with a sober yet dazzling vision of the operation of the Kingdom of heaven among God's people. More than simply a formal literary introduction, the Beatitudes summarise the essence of the sermon's message, giving in a nutshell the way in which the kingdom makes its impact on the lives of those who respond to it.*

The character of this Kingdom life contravenes the values that most people hold dear, because God's blessing rests on the unlikely ones - the poor in spirit, mourners, the meek, the persecuted. Thus the Beatitudes line an upside down reality, or more precisely they define reality in such a way that the usual order of things is seen to be upside down in the eyes of God.

- Identify as a group the opposite of what it means to be poor in spirit, mournful, meekness, hungry and to show mercy.
- Identify examples of these opposites from world history

Sunday's Bible Passage

Read Matthew 5: 1-7

Verse 3 'Poor in Spirit'

- How do we ensure we are 'poor in spirit'?

Verse 4 'Mourning'

- What examples of evil in today's world can you identify?
- How could you learn to feel more strongly about such examples, to the point of mourning them?
- How would you describe the 'sure and steadfast hope' we have in Jesus?

Verse 5 'Meek'

- Discuss the differences between aggressive and strong/firm behaviour?
- Reflect and discuss examples where you feel people have walked over you because of your faith.

Verse 6 'Hunger'

- Share what in life you're most passionate about.
- What aspects of being a Christian do you find easiest to be passionate about?
- What aspects as a Christian do you struggle being passionate about? Why?

Verse 6 'Mercy'

- Share an example of when someone has had grace and patience with you.
- Who do we need to learn to extend mercy to?

Verse to pray Together

*God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly, and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God*

Micah 6:8