

I. Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-16 AMP)

1. Sought out by the crowds
2. He went up and sat down
3. Who was he teaching?

II. Be Happy

1. Did Jesus teach us to be happy?
2. Happy are the poor in spirit (v.3)
3. Happy are the sad (v.4)
4. Happy are the gentle (v.5)
5. Happy are the hungry (v.6)
6. Happy are those who pity (v.7)
7. Happy are those with moral integrity (v.8)
8. Happy are the peacemakers (v.9)
9. Happy are those who suffer for doing right (v.10, Isaiah 5:20-21)
10. Happy are those despised for being Jesus followers (v.11-12. Matt 10:32-33, 2 Cor 2:15-16, John 15:18-21)

III. Be Tasty, Be Bright

1. What taste do you leave in people's mouth? (v.13)
2. Who is seeing you? (v.14-16)

Questions for discussion

1. Why does Jesus seem to prioritize teaching and training his disciples (followers) over the masses of people who came out to examine him? Should this inform how we do church?
2. What is the difference between the happiness/blessedness that Jesus is advocating for as opposed to the way most of us think about happiness?
3. Describe what we mean by "revelation through opposites". How does reversing Jesus' words help us to get a better picture of what he means?
4. What is meant by "poor in spirit"?
5. Why does Jesus say those who mourn are happy? In what way?
6. What is the opposite of gentle? How does it feel to be around such a person?
7. Would you describe our church as hungry for righteousness? What would the opposite look like?
8. In what respects do you need to show more pity (mercy)?
9. What is the benefit of a pure heart (will) according to v.8? How do you think that works?
10. Does our entertainment coach us to pursue the opposite of peacemaking?
11. How can Jesus link happiness with suffering for doing what is right or for persecution by affiliation with him? How does eternity impact this assessment?
12. What is the danger (the thing to avoid) in the salt and light discussion?

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