



Week 1 "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit"

INTRODUCTION

What sort of things do you associate with the term #blessed? Maybe it's a dream vacation in a tropical location; perhaps it's a brand-new vehicle, a great job, or a brand-new home; it could even be a feeling of luck being dealt to you. We're going to explore a radically different approach to living #blessed, and as you may come to find it's not all sunshine, lollipops, and rainbows as you might expect.

Jesus spent much of his time here on earth speaking to and teaching those around him. Arguably his most famous message delivered was The Sermon on the Mount. During that sermon, He laid out some culture-defying ways to approach everyday living. These declarations comprise what we commonly refer to today as the beatitudes. Over the course of the next several weeks, we will focus in on a single beatitude and really go in-depth to discover the significance of what it means in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when you hear #blessed?
2. How does God's definition of #blessed differ?
3. Would you consider yourself to be blessed? Does your "#blessed" life line up with God's definition? Explain.

Read Philippians 4:12-13 & Matthew 5:1-10

4. What do you think of Paul's message in Philippians 4:12-13? Are you at this point in your life?
5. What steps can we be taking to become content in our daily lives?
6. Do you agree with what Jesus said in Matthew 5:1-10? Are there things from these verses that you see in your life or maybe don't see in your life?

"To be Utterly Dependent on Christ"

7. Look back at Matthew 5:3. What do you think Christ meant when He said, "Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"?
8. What does it truly mean to be utterly dependent on Christ?
9. Why do we try to bring our natural independence into our spiritual walk with God? Why won't it work?

Read Deuteronomy 8:11-14 "To be Eternally Grateful"

10. Why do you think Moses warns us in verses 13 & 14 to be careful so that we do not

become prideful of the things we have in this world?

11. How does pride prevent us from becoming poor in spirit?
12. How does becoming more grateful help us become more blessed?

ACTION STEP

For your action step this week, make an intentional effort to examine your own lives and consider whether or not you are “poor in spirit”. Are you ALL IN?! Can you honestly say you rely on Him for *everything*? Spend a few minutes to really think about this. Next, write down the areas where you maybe don’t rely on God 100%. Put that piece of paper some where were you will see it daily. As you pass by, use it as a visual reminder to bring those areas before God in prayer. Ask Him to help you continually rely on Him for strength, forever and always.

Take Next Steps + Pray Together + Take Care of Each Other = Community Groups!