

CORONATION: The King's First Speech
Matthew 5:1-12

This week's sermon discussed one of Jesus' best known speeches/sermons. Read Matthew 5:1-12

Do you think Christians ever wonder how Jesus wants them to act or what an "ideal" follower of Jesus looks like? Have you ever wondered those things?

Which, if any, of these phrases ("beatitudes") do you find most encouraging? Why? Which, if any, of these phrases ("beatitudes") do you find most challenging? Why?

The first thing Jesus stated was "blessed are the poor in spirit," which establishes that the ideal citizen of His kingdom recognizes their spiritual need.

Do you think most Christians are aware of their spiritual need or do you think most Christians think they are better than and look down on others?

Jesus wants his followers to be sensitive to and moved by sin and brokenness in their own lives and in their communities?

What types of brokenness and suffering in our world impacts and moves you?

Are you (i) moved by suffering that you read about or learn about on the news or (ii) have you become numb to all the suffering and hurt?

In Matthew 5:8 Jesus affirmed the need for his citizens to be pure in heart, as opposed to simply being people who externally do good things.

Do you think most Christians spend more time, energy and focus (i) putting themselves in places for God to work on their hearts or (ii) trying to maintain an image of a "good Christian?"

Jesus wants people in his kingdom to be peacemakers.

Is there anyone in your life who you would say is a "peacemaker?" If so, why?

Do you tend to address conflict or do you ignore it and hope it goes away? Which do you think is a better approach and why?