



Connect Discussion Guide

06.06.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 5:1-12

Key Scriptures:

"Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- Matthew 5:1-12

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

- Philippians 2:5-8

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

- Colossians 1:15-17

Message Highlights:

- The beatitudes will guide us in the process of monitoring how we are living out our responsibilities within the Kingdom of God.
- Never take for granted that God made himself in Christ available to teach us the ways of his Kingdom.
- “As the Kingdom of God advances, it does so in the face of the kingdoms of this world.” -Mark Moore
- Scripture is not just a window to see into God’s world, but also a mirror we need reflecting the condition of our being and doing.
- As we get to know Jesus, we should quickly recognize that the goal isn’t escaping hell and going to heaven when we die, but rather experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven while we live.

Conversation Starter:

We are in the first week of our new sermon series, “Blessed”! Discuss different contexts in which you hear and interact with the word “blessed”. Try to think of as many instances as you can; then, compare and contrast how the world might view blessings in contrast to how Jesus used the word in Matthew 5:1-12.

Discuss the Message:

1. Jesus’ introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, illustrates some of humanity’s “most valued priorities” (Mark Moore) in light of the Kingdom of God. Which of these statements of Good News especially stick out to you as you consider the specific Kingdom Work you have been called to?
2. Note Jesus’ posture, or positioning, while teaching the beatitudes. Refer to Matthew 5:1 if you are unsure. What is significant about Jesus’ posture here? Think back to past teachers you have had, and discuss how their teaching posture affects the way you receive the message.
3. How do the beatitudes defy the notion that Christianity is only for the healthy and not the sick as well? What encouragement can you take from this teaching to offer both yourself and to those close to you?
4. Last week, Tyler Nobis remarked that the immersed life unleashes us to say yes to so much more than we are leaving behind; discuss the connection between that truth and the blessings described in the Beatitudes.
5. The blessings Jesus describes in Matthew 5:2-11 guide us as we seek God and build his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Try to approach these beatitudes with fresh eyes today; read through each statement slowly and ask God to soften your heart as you seek to model these virtues. Then, choose one beatitude to focus on and share an example of someone you know who has modeled it well in the past.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, thank you for the teaching of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for making sure that even today, we can sit at his feet and learn from him the path to a truly blessed life. We confess that some of your promises of blessing seem rather paradoxical to us. Help us to glimpse the reality of your Kingdom, that we might set aside our preconceived ideas of what it means to be blessed so that we can fully experience the true blessings that you have in store for us as we pursue your heart and your ways. May we live a life that goes beyond simply saying “no” to the worldly things we used to cling to. We desire to live a blessed life, and we want to live lives that bless you. Move us by your Spirit to say “yes” to the kingdom things you are calling us to do in your name. Amen.