

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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MARTY GRUBBS, Senior Pastor



Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs kicked off our new series on the Sermon on the Mount.

Over the next seven weeks we will look at this most famous sermon; its meaning for all, its blessings to followers of Jesus, and its call for change and commitment to Jesus. Those in the audience when Jesus preached are much like those in our congregation today: believers (disciples/followers), religious leaders (keepers of the letter of the law but not always the spirit of the law), and crowds (curious). We'll begin the discussion of this sermon by looking at the beginning, what are known as the Beatitudes.

"The beginning of the Sermon on the Mount is not a to-do list; it is a good news list. Jesus is describing who had the most to gain by the arrival of his kingdom. He is not prescribing what you must do to enter it."

–Skye Jethani

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:1-10 (NIV AND THE MESSAGE)

¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them. He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (NLT)

¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

³ “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

⁶ “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

¹⁰ “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.” (The Message)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty’s message?
2. Read Matthew 5:1-10 in several Bible translations, paraphrases, and versions.
3. For each beatitude list the “blessed” and “blessing”.
4. Look at your list, where have you seen these truths in the lives of your family, or friends?
5. Look at your list again, where have you found these to be true in your own life?
6. How can we pray for you?
7. Optional: Memorize the beatitudes in the translation(s) of your choice.

PRAYER

Thank God for our privilege of being able to come to him with praise and requests. Pray that he makes the blessings of the beatitudes true in your life.