

Mesa Discussion Guides

Fall 2020

August 30th

The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-6

This week we will discuss the Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount and the first four beatitudes.

1. Think back on the introductory sermon. What stands out to you about the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount as it was described? What are you most excited to learn?
2. Look at verses 1-2. What impression does this give you of Jesus? How would you describe his posture and persona in this moment?
3. Discuss what it means to be poor in spirit. Can you recall a time in your life when this seemed to describe you most? Is there a time when you were not poor in spirit? Why do you think that is? Do you think this describes you now?
4. In what ways have you seen comfort come to those who mourn? When have you seen mourners go un comforted? Do you struggle with trusting God to bring ultimate comfort one day?
5. What is meekness? Feel free to look up the definition. Does this strike you as a trait that describes the average Christian? Does it describe you? What would keep you from being meek?

September 20th

Peacemakers - Matthew 5:9-16

1. Describe a peacemaker as a group. What characterizes a peacemaker?
2. Are you marked by peacemaking in your relationships? How do you know if you are or aren't?
3. How do you think living as a peacemaker in your spheres of influence can be an act of being salt and light?

October 4th

Internal Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

As we discuss this passage, we will touch on subjects that are deeply personal for all and painful for most. Our level of vulnerability and honesty around these topics should match our level of trust and closeness in community.

1. We have four key heart issues addressed in this passage: Anger, lust, oath breaking, and retaliation. Which of these teachings is hardest for you to accept or understand, and why?
2. A blind spot is an area in your life where you have the habit of unchristlike behavior, but you are unaware of it. Have you ever had Christian accountability where you've given someone permission to help you see blind spots in your life? How did you experience that? If not, what is your reaction to receiving that in Christian community?
3. Have you found growth in any of these areas? How did that come about?
4. Which of these internal sins that you need Jesus to heal in you?

October 18th

The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:7-13

1. We pray the Lord's Prayer every week. How has it impacted you or affected you over time?
2. Do you think the Lord's Prayer is important? Why?
3. What specific petitions in the Lord's prayer are meaningful to you and resonate with you? Why?

November 1st

What Do You Love? - Matthew 6:19-34

1. How do you think you would be able to tell what your greatest treasure is?
2. Look at verse 24. Why does Jesus say you cannot serve two masters. What are some areas in your life where you are most tempted to serve a master other than God?
3. Look at verse 25, Jesus addresses anxiety over our needs, What are you most likely to be anxious about? Does it have to do with basic provision, or other things?
4. How would "seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" be an antidote to anxiety?

November 15th

Firm Foundation - Matthew 7:24-29

1. What have been your greatest takeaways from the Sermon on the Mount? How will you move in obedience in light of that?
2. What foundations does the world tell us to build our lives on? What are you most likely to follow?

3. Why do you think Christ's teaching forms a foundation that can withstand the storms of life. What is a time in your life when you have found stability from Christ's wisdom?