

## **Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 17 February 2019**

**Speaker:** Liz Green

**Title:** The Mount - The Mountain of Blessing

**Passage:** Matthew 5:1-12

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The Mount where the Sermon on the Mount is declared, is the sixth Mountain that we have scaled in this 'On This Mountain' series.

**On this mountain**, Jesus, the King, declares the manifesto of the Kingdom of Heaven; a Kingdom hallmarked by submission, service and sacrifice, not swords, strength or superiority.

The Beatitudes, which are Jesus' opening statements of his sermon describe the character of citizens of his Kingdom.

Read Matt 5:1-12

Jesus makes statements about whom God calls blessed; about a way of living that results in true flourishing; that bring spiritual life.

### **Christ-like character takes root in;**

- Recognition of spiritual poverty – Man has insufficient resources to help his spiritual situation (Empty glass)
- Mourning over sin – those who have never grieved their sin cannot know the comfort of forgiveness (tissue box)
- Meekness – willing submission to God; his plans, his paths, his purposes for our lives (car key)
- Spiritual hunger – we feast on the righteousness of Christ. Communion – a symbol of hungering and thirsting for Christ. (Bread and wine)

### **Character bears fruit in;**

- Mercy – not getting what we deserve - extending mercy to others because it has been shown to us (Childs nurse outfit)
- Purity of heart – Undivided in motive, allegiance, desire, trust. (Eggs in a basket)
- Peacemaking – between man and man and God and man; taking on the likeness of Christ who is the ultimate peacemaker (Dove deodorant!)
- Persecution – Disciples are to expect persecution for the very character that they crave (#bigottedchristian)

How can Jesus pronounce blessing on those that cannot obey or know that they can't obey the law when throughout the OT, disobedience to God's law carried with it a curse?

Because Jesus knew that he would bear the curse that sinners (disciples) deserved in exchange for the blessings that Christ deserved.

Jesus wore the curse of the ground that was pronounced in Gen 3:17 when he was crucified Matt 27:28-29. He bore the curse, took the pain, paid the price, endured the penalty in order that citizens of his Kingdom could be pronounced 'Blessed'.

Jesus is the Sermon on the Mount. He is the Beatitudes, and On this Mountain, he invites his disciples to root themselves firmly in him and consequently bear fruit.

### **Questions;**

1. Which Beatitude struck you with fresh gravity?
2. How do you want the Holy Spirit to change you in response to what you heard? / What do you need the Holy Spirit to do in you, in response to what you heard?

3. Read Galatians 3:13-14 and Deuteronomy 21:23. What does it mean to have been rescued from the curse pronounced by the law?
4. Spend some time praying each of the Beatitudes into your life, the life of RFC and the life of those in your world. E.g. That the HS would convict our neighbours of their poverty of spirit, that as Church we would be people who know the joy of forgiveness, that we would be individuals who willingly submit ourselves to God's plans for us.