

Be Different: Living the Ethics of Jesus **Part 2: *Be Transformed***

Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. Jesus said: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Be Transformed with

1. Christ Like Joy.

The greatness of the beatitudes is that they are not wistful glimpses of some future beauty; they are not even golden promises of some distant glory; they are triumphant shouts of bliss for a permanent joy that nothing in the world can ever take away. —**William Barclay**

2. Christ Like Character.

- ✦ **Poor in spirit** (Isaiah 61:1; James 2:5)
- ✦ **Mourners** (Isaiah 61:2; Romans 12:15)
- ✦ **Meek** (1 Peter 3:4,15; James 3:13)
- ✦ **Hunger and thirst** (Psalm 63:1; Matthew 5:20)
- ✦ **Merciful** (James 2:13; Colossians 3:13)
- ✦ **Pure in heart** (2 Timothy 2:22; Psalm 51:10)
- ✦ **Peacemakers** (Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14)
- ✦ **Persecuted** (1 Peter 3:14, John 15:20)

3. Christ Like Life.

The Christian is in a different position from other people who are trying to be good. They hope, by being good, to please God if there is one; or — if they think there is not — at least they hope to deserve approval from good men. But the Christian thinks any good he does comes from the Christ-life inside him. He does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a greenhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it.—**CS Lewis, Mere Christianity**

We believe the Holy Spirit connects us in relationship with God and each other, transforms us more and more like Christ from the inside out, and empowers us to continue God’s work in the world. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Acts 1:8) —**SPBC Core Belief: The Holy Spirit**

All Scripture is Today’s New International Version

Small Group Questions

Solana Beach Presbyterian Church

SBPC Sermon-Based Small Groups Week of September 24, 2006

Be Different: Living the Ethics of Jesus

Part 2: *Be Transformed*—Matthew 5:3-12

REFLECT ON IT—Personal preparation prior to Small Group meeting

Follow this process on three occasions before your Small Group meets:

- Take time to slowly and meditatively read Matthew 5:3-12. Pray that God would speak to your heart and mind.
- Take time to reflect on each of the Beatitudes. Which do you desire most for yourself? Write down at least one specific situation where you could apply this Beatitude and begin the process of transformation in your heart.
- Memorize the Beatitude you picked, repeating it to yourself several times a day.

START IT—Connecting with each other

- When you think of heaven, what image do you see?
- What do we want from God most of the time?

STUDY IT—Matthew 5:3-12 - Read the passage aloud

- What new insights have you gained from this week's scripture or message?
- Why do you think it is difficult for us to take the Beatitudes seriously?
- What do you see as the payoff for walking with God in the present? What conclusion would others say is the payoff by observing Christians or the church?
- What value can the Beatitudes have in a culture that admires and rewards the self-assertive, the confident, and the rich?
- Consider the character of God; in what ways has he demonstrated each of the Beatitudes?
- Give an opposite attitude for each of the Beatitudes. What is their harm if embraced?
- How do the Beatitudes bring people together?

LIVE IT—Applying the truth of Scripture to life

- From your personal time in scripture this week, which of the Beatitudes are you most drawn to? Share one specific situation where you would like to demonstrate it. Commit to praying specifically for the people on your right and left this week that they would be able to do so.
- **Preparation for Prayer:** Read the SBPC Core Belief: The Holy Spirit, from the bottom of the outline. Everyone look up "Holy Spirit" in the concordance or index in the back of their Bibles. Pick one verse each to read aloud as a beginning of the prayer time.

PRAY IT—Supporting one another through care and prayer

- **Application:** Ask for God's help in applying today's passage to your life.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for the Stephen Ministry Workshop, Life-to-Life. Pray for more leaders to come forward to gain additional skills for helping in the growth, healing, and care of others.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for Chris Yanov of Reality Changers as they connect mentors with students. Pray they will establish meaningful and fruitful relationships.
- **Personal requests:** How can this group pray for you?