

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BLESSED ARE THE GENTLE

Matthew 5:5

The Beatitudes — Week 3

ICEBREAKER: When have you recently felt overwhelmed? Describe the situation.

OVERVIEW: If you search on Amazon.com for books on the subject of happiness you'll find over 70,000. People are highly interested in happiness. According to Jesus, happiness is not a goal to be pursued but a by-product of making the right choices and of becoming the right kind of person. Jesus described this type of person in the beatitudes (Mt 5:3-12). In this discussion we will go deeper with the third beatitude — blessed are the gentle.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What was the happiest era of your life?
3. Would the people closest to you describe you as happy/joyful? Explain.
4. Dennis Prager of PragerU.com argues that happiness is a moral obligation — both to God and to the people in your life. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
5. Read Titus 3:2. Gentleness is treating others with softness and tenderness. What does this verse say about the importance of gentleness? Why is gentleness so important?
6. Read James 3:13. What does this verse say about gentleness? Why is gentleness a wise way to behave?
7. Read Proverbs 15:1. What does gentleness look like when you are the target of anger? How do you need to grow in this area?
8. Read Galatians 6:1. What does gentleness look like when you are correcting or rebuking someone? How do you need to grow in this area?
9. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What does gentleness look like when you are having a gospel conversation, or when you are discussing apologetics with a skeptic? How do you need to grow in this area?
10. Read Matthew 22:28-30. Here Jesus is describing the way He would lead those who accepted His invitation to follow Him. What does gentleness look like when you are in a position of leadership or authority over others? How do you need to grow in this area?

The Last Word: Imagine that every person you encounter is wearing a sign around their neck that reads, "Fragile. Handle with care."

