

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Matthew 5:1-3

The Beatitudes — Week 1

ICEBREAKER: How afraid of dying are you? Explain.

OVERVIEW: Everyone wants to be happy. More than that, everyone is on a happiness quest; we are all searching for happiness, and are willing to make great sacrifices to obtain it. Unfortunately most people are looking for happiness in all the wrong places. So, what is the secret to happiness? Jesus taught about it in His most famous sermon — the Sermon on the Mount. In a section called the Beatitudes, Jesus said that happiness is found by cultivating eight virtues. This week we will go deeper with the first of these virtues— poverty of spirit.

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. As you have lived your life, what have you personally learned about happiness?
3. In the sermon it was said that happiness is not found in the “Ps” — pleasure, possessions, position, praise, power, etc. Why not? If this is true, then why are we still tempted to run after these things?
4. Does God want you to be happy? Explain.

5. Read Romans 3:9-18 and answer the following questions.
 - a. Who is this passage about?
 - b. How does this passage describe people?
 - c. Do you think this passage is an exaggeration? Explain.
 - d. How can this passage help you to cultivate poverty of spirit?
6. Read Matthew 5:1-3 and refer to the sermon for the following questions? What does Jesus mean by “blessed”?
7. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
8. The sermon identified four things that the poor in spirit believe. What were they, and do you believe these things about yourself?
9. The sermon referred to the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Lk 18:9-14). Which of these two men displayed poverty of spirit and why?
10. How does poverty of spirit lead to happiness?

The Last Word: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”
—Saint Augustine

