



Week 4 – Detour: Happy are the Thankful

Series Passage: Matthew 5:1-12

Focus for the Week: Matthew 5:3-5, Philippians 4:10-15

Discussion Guide:

As we enter into this time when our country takes a weekend to celebrate thanksgiving, take time to share what you are all thankful for.

Q: What are you thankful for?

Thanksgiving always carries with it a spirit of reflection. Let's reflect on the verses we have already covered this fall, and then take time to reflect on how these attributes of the happy can lead us to be thankful.

Read: Matthew 5:3-5 (replace the word "blessed" with "happy.")

Q: Poor in spirit, mourners, and the meek. How does embracing these attributes contribute to the thankfulness we are to give to God?

Read: Philippians 4:10-15

Q: How does Paul in this passage reflect the beatitudes we read earlier?

Q: How does contentedness fit into the beatitudes?

Q: What are the barriers in our lives to being content?

Q: How can we overcome these barriers?

Finishing Well:

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *yadah* is the word that we translate as “to thank.” *Yadah* is also the word that is translated as “to praise.” Giving thanks to God and praising God is the same word in the Old Testament. Being thankful is to be a way of expressing our praise to God. To be content with the life that he has provided, and to shout with praise and joy because He sent his one and only son to die on our behalf.

“Give [praise] to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.” (Psalm 136 NIV modified.)

Close in Prayer