

## Grace Church Life Group Work Sheet

Week: One

### Introduction:

In his sermon from this past Sunday, Pastor Tim shared an overview of the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are not a recipe for becoming a Christian. However, the Beatitudes are a great diagnostic tool for spiritual life health in the believer. Jesus wants to develop all of the beatitudes in the life of the believer overtime.

“Blessedness is not so much a subjective feeling but it is an objective reality” - Martin Lloyd Jones

Read Matthew 5:2-12 and Isaiah 6:1-8

### Discussion Body:

1) In this passage, Jesus uses the phrase “Blessed are” 9 times over the course of 8 beatitudes. It is important for us to define the term “Blessed.” How would you define “Blessed?”

2) In verse 3 Jesus uses the term “Poor in Spirit.” How would you define that?

3) The first beatitude is foundational to the beatitudes that follow in the succeeding verses. How so?

**Have someone read Colossians 2:6-7**

**Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—**

4) What is Jesus referring to when He says the Kingdom of Heaven?

5) It is important to use the context of the passage to help us interpret the present text. How does Matthew 4:17 and 23-25 inform us about the concept of “The Kingdom of Heaven” as we encounter it in Matthew 5:3?

Larger Context:

As we look at the passage we recognize 8 characteristics of Kingdom Citizens. It is important to note this kingdom profile is bracketed by a promise. The Kingdom of Heaven is that promise. In the first beatitude Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Similarly, the final beatitude found in verse 10 has the same promise, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The significance of this "bracketing" is that the kingdom of heaven promises applies to all eight of the beatitudes. For example, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God and theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Application:

6) Have you been able to apply this beatitude to your life in past circumstances?

**Leaders be prepared to share a personal experience**

7) How does the promise of future glory in His kingdom impact your experience with Jesus right now?

8) King David displays this beatitude in Psalm 51:16-17

16

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

King David recognized that to be broken inwardly is to cooperate with God in the work that He wants to do in our lives.

What are some character qualities that come to mind for you when it comes to inward brokenness and why?

We have an opportunity to memorize the beatitudes over the next 8 weeks.

Please memorize Matthew 5:3-4.