

Devotional
January 28, 2023
Matthew 5:1-12

Journal / Discuss

- When you first heard the gospel, did it seem strange to you? Talk/Journal about what it sounded like when you first understood what the gospel really is.
- Discuss/Journal the most effective ways for Jesus followers to reach the world. How will you get involved in that process?
- Go through the Beatitudes.
 - Pick out two that you've had success within the last year.
 - Pick two that you've struggled with and need growth in.
- How is the joy Jesus gives different than the happiness the world offers?

Joy isn't the absence of trouble it's the presence of Jesus Christ.

- **Read Matthew 9:35-38.** Be a laborer. Jesus told us to pray for workers in His harvest. Pray for compassionate laborers, then go be a laborer. You have been given everything you need to bring the gospel of Jesus to people. Go out this week and pick the ripe fruit. Stand out. Sadly, the biggest danger we face is fitting in, not standing out.
- **Read Matthew 6:8** and pray. Consider what characteristics tether you to the world's standards and values. What Beatitude characteristic can you replace those with?

Pray

Father, thank You that the happiness that You offer is different than the world's happiness. Although strange, Your happiness is true and authentic. We are bankrupt before You and mourn our sin. Humble us and make us meek, like You. Give us a hunger and a thirst for righteousness and grant us joy through the sweet, real presence of Jesus. We want to live for You. In His wonderful name, amen.