



# Week two The sermon on the mount

‘the children who see god’

- Welcome (5-10 minutes)

Where is your favourite place?

In the world ...  
 For feeling safe ...  
 To do your thinking ...  
 In your locality ...

- Worship (10-15 minutes)



**pray**

<sup>3</sup>God blesses those people who depend only on him.  
 They belong to the kingdom of heaven!  
<sup>4</sup>God blesses those people who grieve.  
 They will find comfort!  
<sup>5</sup>God blesses those people who are humble.  
 The earth will belong to them!  
<sup>6</sup>God blesses those people  
 who want to obey him more than to eat or drink.  
 They will be given what they want!  
<sup>7</sup>God blesses those people who are merciful.  
 They will be treated with mercy!  
<sup>8</sup>God blesses those people whose hearts are pure.  
 They will see him!  
<sup>9</sup>God blesses those people who make peace.  
 They will be called his children!  
<sup>10</sup>God blesses those people who are treated badly  
 for doing right.  
 They belong to the kingdom of heaven.  
 (Mtt 5:1-10 CEV)

- Word (50 minutes)

In our time of All Age Worship at church, we have a mantra that goes; ‘If you remember the Lord you get a reward!’ This is shouted out by the children as we engage in a passage-finding exercise from our own Bibles. Their reward is a ‘lucky dip’ sweet, but surely this sense of remembering and discovering God is one that matures with us as we work for him in the world. We should remember the Lord in every aspect of our living and decision making.

Read the passage:

Matthew 5 (NLT)

The Sermon on the Mount

<sup>1</sup> One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

*The Beatitudes*

<sup>3</sup> “God blesses those who are poor and realise their need for him,  
 for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.  
<sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn,  
 for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble,  
 for they will inherit the whole earth.





- <sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,  
for they will be satisfied.
- <sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.
- <sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

The Beatitudes are a guide to what we can expect our character to look like when we walk in step with Jesus under God's authority. Our priorities become Godly and our focus becomes centred on the will, purpose and issues that God our Father is concerned with. The Beatitudes are about our reliance on God for all our need and want. There is an adjustment made to our priorities and our understandings of what we need when we place ourselves into God's hands and allow his mind to fill our own.

We give up 'I will ...' to 'With God's help I will ...'

Self-reliant? Let God take charge of your life. Self-satisfied? See what a difference it makes to let God fill your soul. All alone? Allow Christ to fill the void.

You are blessed by God when you recognise that apart from him you can DO nothing, that you have nothing.

- Find and underline the 8 blessings in the above passage. Which one do you like the sound of the best? Is this the one you find it easiest to relate to? Talk about how God speaks to you through that Beatitude.

Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ .

Because \_\_\_\_\_ .

As we read through the Beatitudes, we soon realise that the poverty, grief and meekness in the first 3 directly concern our relationship with God and the state of our spirit. The more willing we are to seek God for the whole of our lives, the more we too weep over our sin and recognise how impoverished our souls are. Those who trust in God for their heart's desires find themselves blessed in all of life's tough situations.

- During Lent, we remember Jesus fasting in the wilderness. Which area of your life do you struggle to gain control over?



- Jesus quoted scripture to help him focus on his sole need for God. Think of a verse of scripture that could help you, or a Bible story if you can't remember chapter & verse.

The fourth Beatitude concerns our practical selves and can be divided into three areas of righteousness; legal, moral and social. John Stott describes it in this way:

*Legal righteousness is justification, a right relationship with God... Moral righteousness is that righteousness of character and conduct which pleases God... And social righteousness as we learn from the Law and the prophets, is concerned with seeking man's liberation from oppression, together with the promotion of civil rights, justice in the law courts, integrity in business dealings and honouring home and family affairs. Thus Christians are committed to hunger for righteousness in the whole human community as something pleasing to a righteous God. P.45*

Jesus is addressing his disciples, those who have already chosen to follow God and to show good character. It is the third part of righteousness that is most likely to have a bearing upon us.

- Share ideas about where social righteousness should be sought in and around our local community.

We use our God given gifts and talents to work for social righteousness (justice) in the world. Colin Buchanan (for example) has written a song about the fires in Australia, the money from donations for the download will go to help the victims. [www.colinbuchanan.com.au](http://www.colinbuchanan.com.au)

Shelley Riehl (our friend from Texas, now living in Florida) works for the charity Hope for the Hungry, ([www.hopeforthehungry.org](http://www.hopeforthehungry.org)) encouraging fundraising for Orphanages in Haiti and in India. She writes in her Christmas news:

*The leadership at the boy's home this year had been talking with the boys about the importance of giving to others and living a life of service. When they heard about receiving money for gifts this year they all talked together and decided they would each invite a friend to the orphanage for Christmas and give them their gift. They wanted to make it a day of serving their friends and letting them know they are loved by the boys and Christ. So on Christmas, their friends came, very excitedly, and spent the day celebrating with the boys. The staff prepared a huge feast for everyone and they all spent some time watching movies together, singing and dancing. This was the first time for many of the boys they invited to ever watch TV or receive a gift.*

In Manchester, project Caleb ([www.projectcaleb.co.uk](http://www.projectcaleb.co.uk)) has been established in order to help young people find hope after coming out of care; Simon Wrigley writes:

Project Caleb is a Christian Registered Charity, aimed at helping vulnerable young people. In the Old Testament Caleb faced enormous hurdles but trusted God to overcome them. We have seen impossible circumstances and lives changed. We want to see more lives change...we want to make a difference to the 6,500 young people leaving care each year; we want to make a difference to the 1.25 million young people in the UK that have been labeled "NEETs" - not in education, not in employment, not in training. 3 out of every 4 young people come out of the care system without any qualification whatsoever - this compares to less than 1 in 100 young people in the general population.

As Christians, we cannot allow this to continue. It is so wrong! As citizens of the UK these young people are placed into *our* care. Did you know that 70% of all prostitutes have been in *our* care?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is not for spectators...we are called to be salt and light ...we are called to make a difference! And with His power, we are seeing miracles as lives are being changed! We are so privileged to witness the life changing difference Jesus is making in the lives of young people.

- What are your gifts and talents. How could they be used to work for social justice?
- Why is there always a thirst and hunger for righteousness within us?

## Witness (20 – 25 minutes)

We have a fairtrade shop at church which sells ethically & fairly sourced goods.

Discuss how you could use these products at home for say, the major part of a meal each week. Alternatively, look through the catalogue together and make an order which can be passed on to Kate Harvie.

Or discuss over a mug of fairly-traded tea or coffee how you will take it in turns to buy the biscuits for the coming meetings from the Fair trade shop!

How can you promote fair trade in your work-place or at the meetings you attend?

**Time for refreshments, you've earned them!**

### Bibliography

Stott, John RW; *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*; BST; IVP; 1978

