

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Life in the Kingdom Matthew 5:1-12

Getting Started

Describe the most interesting painting you've ever seen.

Digging In

1. **Read 5:1-2.** Describe the setting.
2. A key word that is repeated throughout this passage is *blessed*. How do you think Jesus is using the word in this passage?
3. **Read 5:3-12.** What do you think it means to be *poor in spirit*? What is the reward for those who are *poor in spirit*?
4. What does it mean to mourn? What is the connection between verses 3 and 4?
5. What does it mean to be *meek*? How does society view this quality? How will the meek be rewarded?
6. What does it mean to *hunger and thirst for righteousness*? Describe someone you know who exemplifies this quality.
7. Why do you think it is so important to God that we show *mercy*? Give an example of what this looks like in real life.
8. Jesus next talks about being *pure in heart* (v. 8). How was this a contrast to the religion of the Pharisees?
9. How is biblical peacemaking different than tolerance or just getting along? What is the significance of peacemakers being called *sons of God*?
10. What important qualifications does Jesus give with regard to persecution in verses 10-11?



What Now?

- How do these qualities contrast with the teaching of the Pharisees? -- with the values of our culture?
- As you look at this description of a citizen of Christ's kingdom, how closely do you match this portrait? Memorize the verse for the particular area in which you feel God is speaking to you.