

*When The Kingdom Comes*  
**“The ‘Be’ Attitudes”**

*The Sermon on the Mount #1*  
Matthew 5:1-6

## INTRODUCTION

**Series:** In this series of studies, we will look at the Kingdom of God as described by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount. It is arguably the most radical, counter-cultural, and yet beautiful teaching in human history. It will resonate with every human heart on some level, yet it will challenge to the limit every heart that dares to follow. This sermon was spoken to ordinary people hungry for answers to life.

**Study:** Jesus begins his sermon with the ‘beatitudes’. This word comes from Latin origins ‘beatus’, meaning blessed. While it brings great encouragement to ordinary people with deep needs, it speaks even more importantly to the nature of God’s kingdom on earth now and the Kingdom to come. It gives us a heavenly, eternal perspective where Jesus reigns as King. Let’s study the first four beatitudes now.

**Ice Breaker (Optional – 8 MIN):** Describe a time that you attempted to master something difficult and found your attempts frustrated.

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### Q1. Read Matthew 5:1-12

This passage of scripture was not intended as a “how to” list to attain God’s favor, but rather a description of life in the kingdom of God. Reflect on your own spiritual walk thus far. Which of these “attitudes” best reflects where you are today (e.g. recognizing your spiritual poverty, mourning over your sinful condition, humility or meekness before God, hungering for righteousness...)

### Q2. Read Matthew 5:3, Luke 4:18, Romans 8:16

We each have our own spirit apart from God’s Spirit that dwells within the believer. We might understand our own spirit as the part of us that describes our ‘inner fortitude’ or ‘our will’, or that part that makes our choices (the ‘Chooser Muscle’ as Pastor Ron calls it). Given this, how would you describe someone who is “poor in spirit”? What relationship do you see between God’s reign and our will?

### Q3. Read Matthew 5:4, Isaiah 61:1-2, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

These verses paint a picture of a compassionate and caring God. Share a time when you experienced God’s comfort personally.

### Q4. Read Matthew 5:5, Matthew 11:29, Romans 8:17 Revelation 5:10

The word “meek” means “gentle” (not weak) and is exemplified by strength under control in the life of Jesus. We typically think the strong, forceful people get the rewards of our culture, while “nice guys finish last.” For what reasons might you think the gentle (meek) receive an inheritance from Jesus? At what point do you think we begin to forfeit heavenly inheritance for the rewards of our culture?

### Q5. Read Matthew 5:6, John 6:35

In many respects, we live in a dry and parched world filled with injustice and suffering. Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness in our world, in our community, in your personal life? How do you hunger for righteousness in your life and how do you get fed?

## WRAP-UP

In these first beatitudes, we see Christ’s encouragement to ordinary people who may think themselves as hurt, incapable, marginalized, or hopeless. But, as we have seen, Jesus calls these tender hearted ones, ‘blessed’! And for good reason as will see in the next study. It is the ordinary ones that God uses in unexpected and mighty ways to demonstrate His Kingdom reign. His Kingdom is available to all, both now and yet to come.

### Memory Verse

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*  
Matthew 5:6 NIV

### PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (record prayers on next page)

Challenge: See the resources listed on the next page and ask God to show you one to use in advancing your own spiritual journey.

**Q1.**  
**Read Matthew 5:1-12 in your Bibles**

**Q2.**  
*Matthew 5:3 NIV - 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Luke 4:18 NIV - 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed*

*Romans 8:16 NIV - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

**Q3.**  
*Matthew 5:4 NIV - 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*Isaiah 61:1-2 NIV - 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,*

*2 Corinthians 1:3-5 NIV - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.*

**Q4**  
*Matthew 5:5 NIV - 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*Matthew 11:29 NIV - 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

*Romans 8:17 NIV - 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

*Revelation 5:10 NIV - 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

**Q5.**  
*Matthew 5:6 NIV - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*John 6:35 NIV - 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

**Group Prayer Requests:**

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**BOOKS**

Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Willard

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster \*

The Life You've Always Wanted by John Ortberg \*+

\* available for checkout at New Life Library

+ small group study material available for checkout through the Adult Ministries Dept. x205

**DOWNLOADABLE DOCUMENTS ([www.newlifepismo.com](http://www.newlifepismo.com))**

Go to Sermons tab/When The Kingdom Comes/ to find the following:

The Discipline of Fasting

Fasting: the Misunderstood Discipline

Spiritual Disciplines

Qualities of a Disciple