

KINGDOM LIFE

THE CALL UPON EVERY FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Questions for Application for the Week of January 13, 2014 Part 1 - Distinctly Different: Pursuing His Values, Not My Own Matthew 5:1-12

1. Rather than general ethical teaching, Jesus sat down to specifically instruct his followers on how they should live. The Beatitudes, therefore, are not to be thought of as “out of reach” or to be glossed over, but pondered and pursued. How have you viewed the Beatitudes in the past? In what ways would someone living out these verses be accepted in our culture and how might they be ostracized?

2. While commentators have long debated how (if at all) to group the Beatitudes, the first four can each be thought of as being internal attitudes or dispositions of the heart, the next three have to do with actions we perform, and the final set deals with our response to attack and persecution. We characterized them as: His people look to Him, His people live differently, and His people persevere. Considering these three groups (Matthew 5:3-6; 7-9; 10-12), can you identify ways in which the Lord is building you up in these areas and in which might you need to greater focus your attention?

3. Each Beatitude is presented with a promise or reward attached to it. As with the nature of Christ’s kingdom, these promises are fulfilled now and at the same time not yet. Reflecting over your life with Christ, can you identify ways in which He has kept these promises and ways in which the promise of a future fulfillment should motivate you when it appears like He has not?

4. As we struggle to live the life set before us, we are encouraged by Christ’s perfect example (Hebrews 12:1-2) and live in dependency upon Him (Philippians 4:13).

- a. Using Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, find examples of Jesus demonstrating the Beatitudes.
- b. Looking at the examples you have found and considering your answers from question #2, in what ways do you see Christ working in you and how does he perfectly conform to those beatitudes with which you are struggling?

5. We do not gain entrance into the kingdom by performing these commands. Rather we aim to keep these commands because we are redeemed by Christ and welcomed in. Why is it so important to keep that in the forefront of our minds as we seek to live the Christian life? What is the danger in not doing so?

Coming Next Week:
Part 2 - Ever Pointing: Claiming His Glory and Not Mine
Matthew 5:13-16