



## Week 10 – Kingdom People

In the message this week we skimmed the “blessings” of Jesus pretty quickly. We are going to take a little time in your groups to unpack a few more of the 8 blessings, you probably can’t do them all, so as a group, pick the three you want to understand most and work through them together. Take time to share how they have worked themselves out in each of your lives.

1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

Read Psalm 70:5, Romans 3:23, and Revelation 3:17. After reading those verses how “rich” does your spirit feel? As uncomfortable as they are, what do you think is the purposes of verses like these?

Now read Rev 3:18 and Isaiah 61:10. What does God plan to do about our poverty?

2. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Read James 4:8-9 and 1 John 1:9. It is easy to have a small view of our sin, and having a small view of sin means we don’t need a very big God. Or we think we only need a very little from Him. How does James say we should feel about our sin?

Read Isaiah 51:11-12. The road to joy first passes through \_\_\_\_\_  
? What sin have you not grieved over? What sin may be holding you apart from the blessing of God’s joy?

3. “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth”

Read Colossians 3:12-15 and Micah 6:8. Meekness is a combination of humility and gentleness. Meekness does not wield power for personal protection of gain. What are some ways in which you have, or seen other Christians “flex” their power in unhealthy ways?



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4. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness."

Read John 4:14 and John 6:35. Where does Jesus say our thirst and hunger should be satisfied? In the Old Testament God was portrayed as satisfying to His people in similar ways. Consider Psalm 119:103 and 34:8.

This is a new appetite that is developed in a disciple of Jesus. Describe a time in your life when you had little or no appetite or interest in anything of God, then a time when your appetite began to change and the things of God started to "taste good" and to quench the thirst of your life. What aspects of God and his word increase your appetite? If you are lacking an appetite for God's word, what may be causing it? How dangerous is it to go without food?

5. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

Read Ephesians 4:32. Paul combines kindness with forgiveness and compares these actions to Christ. What does the "as" imply in this verse? Who received mercy first? Read Titus 3:5 and discuss what the conditions of mercy should be.

6. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Read Psalm 19:8; 12:6 and then 1 John 3:2-3. According to these verses where does cleansing come from? What can we do to work on our present purity? Where does John say our final purity will come from? How does this speak to the "now" aspect of the kingdom and the "future" aspect of the kingdom?

7. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God"

Read Ephesians 2:14, Romans 12:18. As we mature in our faith, we should find ourselves being more and more at peace with each other, and even with our enemies. Humility, meekness and compassion should result in peace. Examine relationships in your own life where there is little peace, or the types of people or topics that stir up anger in you and consider how meekness, compassion and purity might bring peace to those relationships or those areas of your life.

8. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Read 2 Corinthians 12:10 and 1 Peter 3:13-16. According to Paul and Peter, where should we expect to see the most resistance and persecution. What form does this persecution take? Looking back on your life, when have you felt most persecuted, or suffered most for your faith. What has your faith cost you at times?

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