Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Fifteen

The Beatitudes

Session Goals

1. The disciple will share an area where they have difficulty reacting the way Jesus was teaching His disciples to act.
2. The disciple will read the blessings in an alternative translation.
3. The disciple will recall two or three blessings that will result from living as Jesus teaches.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. Pray with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the application.

The Beatitudes

The beatitudes are the blessings that Jesus spoke to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. Each saying speaks of the favor of God that will result if we have a certain character trait. Jesus was teaching His disciples and us how to live and how to react when we are treated in a way we do not like. To further understand what Jesus was saying, discuss what the character traits mean and what are the opposite behaviors. What do the blessings mean?

Matthew 5:1-12 "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." NIV

"What happiness comes to you when you feel your spiritual poverty for yours is the realm of heaven's kingdom." TPT

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." NIV

"What delight comes to you when you wait upon the Lord, for you will find what you long for." TPT

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." NIV

"What blessing comes to you when gentleness lives in you! For you will inherit the earth." TPT

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." NIV

"How enriched you are when you crave righteousness! For you will be satisfied." TPT

"Blessed are the merciful. For they will be shown mercy." NIV

"How blessed you are when you demonstrate tender mercy! For tender mercy will be demonstrated to you." TPT

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

"What bliss you experience when your heart is pure. For then your eyes will open to see more and more of God." TPT

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." NIV

"How joyful you are when you make peace. But then you will be recognized as a true child of God." TPT

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” NIV

“How enriched you are when persecuted for doing what is right, for then you experience the realm of heaven’s kingdom.” TPT

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” NIV

“How blessed you are when people insult and persecute you and speak all kinds of cruel lies about you because of your love for me! So, leap for joy, since your heavenly reward is great, for you are being rejected the same way the prophets were before you.” TPT

Luke 7:23 “Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

“And tell John these words. The blessing of heaven comes upon those who never lose their faith in me, no matter what happens.” TPT

John 20:29 “Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you believe, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

Jesus, responded, “Thomas now that you’ve seen me, you believe. But there are those who have never seen me with their eyes, but have believed in me with their hearts, and they will be blessed even more.” TPT

How can we change our behavior where we need to so we will live as God wants us to.

We cannot but He can.

Philippians 2:13: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." NIV

Ephesians 4:22-24 "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." NIV

Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a lingering living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you may be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing, and perfect will." NIV

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." NIV

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here." NIV

Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." NIV

Romans 8:1-2 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life, has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:26 "In the same way, the spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

Action Steps

- Meditate on the Beatitudes, ask God to show you areas where He wants to bring a change in your life. Pray for that change and ask God to work in you according to His promises. Share next week when you have seen changes in your reactions and when you have found it difficult.

- Think this week about what is important to you among the attitudes that are blessed with God's favor. Do you want a pure heart, or to be a peacemaker or to stand strong in God when things go wrong? Or is your desire to be meek or merciful or to hunger and thirst after righteousness? There isn't a right or a wrong answer, but His Holy Spirit is at work in you for you to want what He wants.