



GROWTH GROUP SERMON CURRICULUM

THE BIG STORY SERMON SERIES | SEPTEMBER 23 2018

“REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN, FOR SO THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.” - MATTHEW 5:12

MATTHEW

5:1-12

FROM THE TEXT

- MATTHEW 5:1-12 BEGINS JESUS' FAMOUS "SERMON ON THE MOUNT". THIS PASSAGE IS THE FIRST MAJOR SECTION OF JESUS' TEACHING PRESENTED IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT MATTHEW STARTING WITH JESUS' TEACHING OF THE BEATITUDES?
- HOW DO THE BEATITUDES IN MATTHEW 5:3-11 PRESENT A RADICALLY DIFFERENT AND NEW PERSPECTIVE OF THE "BLESSED"? HOW DOES THIS VIEW CHALLENGE OUR TYPICAL IDEA OF THE "BLESSED"?
- CONSIDERING MATTHEW 5:12 AT THE END OF THE BEATITUDES. WHAT IS THE FOCUS OR 'END GOAL' OF THIS RADICAL PERSPECTIVE THAT JESUS PRESENTS? WHY IS THIS FOCUS CRITICAL TO PERSEVERENCE OF BELIEVERS?

FROM THE SERMON

- ON SUNDAY, PASTOR CHRIS TAUGHT US HOW THE BEATITUDES DESCRIBE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN. CHRIS PRESENTED US WITH THE "8 MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN". WHICH OF THESE 8 MARKS STAND OUT THE MOST TO YOU AND WHY?

THE 8 MARKS: 1) A CHRISTIAN RECOGNIZES THEIR SPIRITUAL POVERTY; 2) A CHRISTIAN MOURNS OVER THEIR SIN; 3) A CHRISTIAN IS MEEK; 4) A CHRISTIAN HUNGERS AND THIRSTS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS; 5) A CHRISTIAN IS MERCIFUL; 6) A CHRISTIAN IS SINGLE-MINDED IN DEVOTION TO GOD; 7) A CHRISTIAN IS A PEACEMAKER; AND 8) A CHRISTIAN IS PERSECUTED FOR FOLLOWING JESUS.)
- THESE 8 MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN ARE ALL PAIRED WITH A BLESSING. WHAT ARE THESE BLESSINGS OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST? HOW DO THESE BLESSINGS OVERCOME THE PERSECUTION AND CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH FOLLOWING JESUS?

FOR YOUR LIFE | APPLICATION | ACCOUNTABILITY

- WHICH OF THE 8 MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN PRESENTED IN THE BEATITUDES DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST? WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO WORK ON THIS AREA IN YOUR LIFE AND PURSUE GOD'S BLESSINGS AND PROMISES? AS A GROUP DISCUSS SCRIPTURE THAT MAY ENCOURAGE AND HELP YOU FOCUS ON GOD'S TRUTH IN YOUR AREA(S) OF STRUGGLE.
- READ 1 PETER 2:20-21. HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE AND MATTHEW 5:1-12 ENCOURAGE US TO ENDURE SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION? SHARE AN AREA OF SUFFERING OR PERSECUTION IN YOUR LIFE. TAKE TIME TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHERS STRUGGLES.
- WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO APPLY (OR CHANGE) THIS WEEK AND HOW CAN WE HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE?

PRAYER FOCUS

PRAY THAT THE 8 MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN WOULD BE TRUE IN OUR LIVES. PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE BOLD WITNESSES AS AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST. PRAY FOR PERSEVERENCE THROUGH TRIALS OR PERSECUTION THAT YOU MIGHT FACE BECAUSE OF FOLLOWING JESUS. PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD THAT LIVES OUT THESE VERSES DAILY.