



Come As You Are

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

What's the most memorable speech or talk you've ever heard? What made it memorable?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will read the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3) In the Bible, this word blessed actually addresses a question that haunts the human race — Who has the good life? Jesus says blessed are the poor in spirit. Why?

It's because, through Jesus, the possibility of life in the presence, power, favor, love, guidance, and strength of God has come right down to them. Jesus is contrasting his beatitudes against who the world says is eligible for the good life. To be in the kingdom means to be blessed no matter what else happens. Your future is secured. Your present is redeemed.

And so it goes on through the list of beatitudes. The idea of the Beatitudes is no human condition excludes blessedness now that Jesus is in the equation.

In the kingdom of God we see each other as we really are. We come just as we are to God and to one another to be loved and to be healed. It turns out that genuine, humble, and costly admission of your inadequacy to resist sin, is part of what God uses to make change possible, to make a healing community possible. What kills the church is pretending there is no sin. We need to be a church that's open about our sin.

There were two groups listening to Jesus' talk. The crowds are people who are interested in Jesus. They'd like his help with their problems and they admire his ideas. The disciples are people who used to be part of the crowd but have now committed to following Jesus and doing what he says. Every once in a while, someone leaves the crowd and becomes a disciple. Someone stops just admiring and starts to follow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you fill in this blank: If I only had/was _____, I would be living the good life.

2. The hashtag #blessed gained popularity on social media for a number of years. What do you think the word “blessed” means to an unbelieving world?

3. Read Matthew 5:3-5 and then answer the following questions.
 - Describe a time when you felt especially poor in spirit, a time when you were intensely aware of your need for God. How did He meet you?

 - Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What’s the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?

 - Why might culture push back against the notion of meekness, particularly for men?

4. How can you practice looking at people differently this week, looking at them as God does? In what way(s) do you need God’s help with this?

5. What moved you from being in the crowd to a disciple, or from an admirer to a follower of Jesus?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will ask God to help me see what he sees in people.
- I will practice looking at people differently this week.
- I will study Matthew 5-7.
- I will stop admiring Jesus and start following him.
- I will become a student of Jesus and learn whatever he teaches.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 4:23-25
- Matthew 5:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

- [The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God](#) by Dallas Willard

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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