

Thornbury Baptist Church
Matthew Teaching Series
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: November 10th 2024

Talk title: The Life God Blesses (Part 2)

Passage: Matthew 5:7-9

Speaker: Charlotte Royal (In the talk, Charlotte continued to unpack the Beatitudes (the start of the Sermon on the Mount))

Discussion Questions

Verse 7: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (Charlotte specifically looked at the forgiveness & compassion characteristics of God's mercy)

-God's mercy towards creation is motivated by his love for humanity. (Eph 2:4-5)

How does this encourage/challenge the group when it comes to being people who are merciful towards others? How do you think individually and as a Church community we can be more merciful to our local community?

-How does Jesus' demonstration of compassion in the gospels towards those who are often rejected, outcast or seen as 'unclean' challenge or encourage us as we follow him?

Verse 8: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

- Being 'pure in heart' is a theme running throughout scripture, worded in various ways such as; 'Clean heart' (Psalm 24) 'undivided heart' (Psalm 71) and 'Love the Lord your God with your whole heart' (Matthew 22:37 & Deut 6:5). How does the group relate to the invitation to be 'pure in heart'? (You might like to take a moment as a group to ask God to show you an area of your own heart you haven't yet surrendered/given to him?)

- As we walk in discipleship as followers of Jesus, are there practical tools (maybe spiritual disciplines) that help you yield to God's gracious work of 'purifying' our hearts?

Verse 9: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

- When we look at the world around us, where do we long to see peace? How do you think God might be calling the Church in a broad sense to contribute to peacemaking within the world?
- How do you feel personally challenged to be a peacemaker on your frontline? Do you find it easier to be a peacekeeper rather than a peacemaker? How does our understanding of God as a God of reconciliation (Col 1:19) and peace help us with this?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?