

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Matthew Teaching Series

Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

**Talk title:** The People God Blesses

**Passage:** Matthew 5:1-6

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Discussion Questions**

- Matthew chs 5-7 are what we call 'The Sermon on the Mount' and they describe how disciples are to live as citizens of God's Kingdom. Where and how have people in the group been formed in Christian character and living? Do they wish things might have been done differently in their formation? How?
- How might we best form new disciples (for example, those coming to faith through an Alpha Course) in Christian character and living?
- Does the Sermon on the Mount still 'work' as a 'curriculum for Christlikeness' for modern people?
- In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches his disciples, but also welcomes the crowds to listen in (Matthew 5:1,2 ; 7:28). Today some are nervous about identifying boundaries between 'church' and 'world', and react negatively to the idea that some are 'in' and some are 'out'. What are the strengths and possible pitfalls of recognising the distinction between 'disciples' and 'crowd' for a local church like TBC?
- David showed the connection between the Beatitudes (v3-11) and Old Testament Israel's longing for an end to their exile in Isaiah 61. In a nutshell, in the Beatitudes Jesus is saying that their longing is over: the blessing of God's restoration has begun in Jesus. Are there ways or places in which members of the group are longing to see God's kingdom come? Perhaps ways that they are grieving over the way that things are, for example in family life, at work, in the nation, in the British Church or in the wider world? Talk about some of those longings and spend time praying for one another in the light of them.

**Takeaway**

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

All talks are recorded and may be viewed on TBC's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM1OwaJ4eSICosAjl9Ofzjw>