

MATTHEW 5:3-6

- › What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
- › Who, according to these verses, will be filled?

MATTHEW 5:7-10

- › Read verses 7-10 through the eyes of a self-righteous Pharisee. How do you think they felt as Jesus preached these points?
- › Does each Beatitude describe a different person, do they all describe one Christian, or do they form a list of attributes to which we should aspire?

MATTHEW 5:11-12

- › How, where, and when does God reward Christians who are insulted, persecuted, and slandered?
- › According to verse 12, who else experienced persecution?

MATTHEW 5:13-16

- › Of what use is salt that is not salty?
- › What does a light do for everyone in the house? What, then, does a Christian do for everyone in his or her life?

CENTRAL TRUTH

The Sermon on the Mount shows us how much we need Jesus and it teaches us how to be like Him.

NOW WHAT?

- › The heartbroken are blessed because they will be comforted. Are you heartbroken? If so, would you be willing to share your story as God comforts you?
- › Do you truly hunger and thirst for righteousness? What would be different in your life if you did? Which of the Beatitudes (vv. 3-10) needs to show up more in your life?
- › Because of what you have read in this Scripture, how might your outlook on persecution change?
- › Have you been hiding your light? Have you been as useful to God's kingdom as salt that is not salty? What needs to change for you to be light? What will it take for you to be salty?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Jesus starts off and almost summarizes the Sermon on the Mount with the first Beatitude; teaching that those who are poor in spirit are actually blessed because they will have the kingdom of heaven. In this sermon that stretches through Matthew 7, Jesus is establishing the necessity of the coming crucifixion and resurrection. We see the attributes of someone who truly gets it in the Beatitudes. We see the proper response to persecution. We see the uselessness of a Christian whose testimony is a fruitless fraud and it leaves us broken. It leaves us poor in spirit and that is precisely the point.
- › **Memorize:** Matthew 5:14
- › **Pray:** Give God glory for the Sermon of the Mount. Offer your heart to God and ask Him to sculpt it until it looks more like these teachings; poor in spirit, blessed in mourning, gentle, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, merciful, pure, and peacemaking even when persecuted. Thank Him for the reward that awaits the persecuted and commit to Him that you will not be like salt that is not salty, but like a lamp that brings light to everyone around you.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Read the Beatitudes that are listed elsewhere in Scripture. You can find them in Job 5:17, Psalm 1:1, 32:1-2, 33:12, 41:1, 106:3; and Proverbs 8:34 and 28:14. Look at these passages and, knowing that Jesus is establishing the necessity of the crucifixion and resurrection in today's Scripture, see if you can spot commonalities among the Beatitudes that span Scripture. After that, read the first three chapters of Revelation for even more Beatitudes.