



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 2nd February 2025



Matthew 5:6-8 Hunger, Mercy and Purity

Warm Up

Have you ever been really hungry or thirsty? How does it affect your thinking and actions? What is it like to receive mercy in this world? Does it always get passed on?

Background and context

The second of the triad of Beatitudes focuses on attitude of mind. If our attitudes and desires are in tune with God then we will be living the Good Life! Jesus is teaching that life in His Kingdom is more than just doing the right thing and worshipping God, it is a mind-set, a change of attitude, a change of heart.

Blessed. (Makarios/Ashrey) Gk/Heb. Fortunate, happy, flourishing, secure, protected, **good life**

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 5:1-12. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Look up the Hebrew words **Tsedeqah** and **Mishpat** on Google. How do they help in understanding righteousness?
2. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for it? Read Psalm 42:1-2. Does this help your understanding?
3. **Read Matt 6:33.** What is the outcome, when we earnestly seek God's righteousness?
4. If we demonstrate mercy to each other, God promises to show us mercy. What does this mean for us?
5. Being merciful is not a natural human response. Why is this? What should we do if the mercy we show is not returned to us by others?
6. **Read v8.** The Bible says no one has seen God (John1:18) and that we are all sinners (Rom 3:23), so how can this be true?
7. Human motives are never pure, there is always a selfish element (Gen 6:5). How can we obtain a pure heart?

Discipleship and Application



8. Do you thirst for righteousness? Why? What stops us? Why are we not crying out for justice in Gaza or Ukraine or anywhere else we see injustice?
9. What are the things in our life that stifle our mercy and our purity of heart?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.