Hello Summer:

Week 12: The Beatitudes

I. Introduction: The Concept of Surrender

- 1. Personal story about starting a company called Surrender Network.
- 2. Definition of surrender: discovering God's will for every situation and bending every effort in that direction.
- 3. Surrender is binary: either you surrender all or you don't.
- 4. Practical exercise: hands out as a symbol of surrender.

II. Receiving from God

- 1. Surrendering allows us to receive what God has for us.
- 2. Surrendering specific aspects of life: will, money, desires, etc.
- 3. Emphasis on receiving God's promises for various aspects of life.

III. Mindset and Hope

- 1. Personal experiences contrasting service mindset in Haiti vs. entitlement mindset at Great Wolf Lodge
- 2. Question: What dictates your hope and inner world every day?
- 3. Introduction of the "hope meter" to assess personal hope levels.

IV. Jesus' Teachings: The Beatitudes

- 1. Context: Jesus' genealogy, birth, baptism, and early ministry.
- 2. Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes.
- 3. Explanation of each Beatitude and its implications:
 - a. Poor in Spirit: Humility and dependence on God.
 - b. Mourning: Personal, communal, and godly mourning.
 - c. Meekness: Strength under control, inheriting the earth.
 - d. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness: Pursuit of God through scripture and prayer.
 - e. Merciful: Showing mercy as Jesus redefined it.
 - f. Pure in Heart: Living into the purity given by God
 - g. Peacemakers: Being called children of God.
 - h. Persecuted for Righteousness: The reality of living a life worthy of persecution.

V. Living a Life of Service

- 1. Transition from a mindset of being served to serving others.
- 2. Reflection on personal and communal service.
- 3. Encouragement to live a life fully surrendered to Jesus.

VI. Conclusion:

- 1. Hope in Jesus- Encouragement to place all hope in Jesus, not in worldly comforts.
- 2. Call to live mission-focused lives, serving others and modeling Jesus.
- 3. Final prayer and blessing for the congregation.