The Good Life

Matthew 5.1-12

Backdrop of the sermon on the mount = Matthew 4.17

Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

Matthew 4.17

Repent = change, turn to God

Kingdom of heaven = sphere of God's enacted rule and reign

Near = the kingdom arrived in Jesus

"Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down… and he began to teach them" (Matthew 5.2):

- Matthew presents Jesus as the new Moses
- Jesus presents the sermon on the mount as the new Torah

Blessed in Matthew 5 = an opinion given to persuade others why someone is blessed

The Beatitudes invite us to:

1. A new vision for "the good life."
2. A new quality of commitment
3. A new way of evangelism
4. A new kind of obedience

Big idea: Jesus teaches surprising things about what human flourishing looks like.

Challenge: Compare your version of the good life to what Jesus proposes.

DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

What is your version of "the good life?" What would cause you to identify in someone else that they are blessed?

Read Matthew 5.1-12.

Discuss how you have historically understood this set of Jesus' teachings before you heard the sermon.

Next, discuss what shifts took place when you learned that "blessed" here is a way to persuade others why a certain group of people are actually living the good life. If you missed the sermon, consider watching this Bible Project video together: https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-5-3-16-beatitudes/

Which group of people that Jesus describes as blessed stands out to you, and why?

How does this passage challenge your vision of what the good life is?

How can a passage like this help you commit to Jesus, even when things you are going through do not look like a"blessing?"

How can this passage equip you to share about Jesus and make disciples?

In what ways can you teach your children that the good life Jesus offers doesn't look like what most people want (status, money, things, etc.)?