



Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 5

Matthew 5:1-12

- 1) Share a time you experienced “the good life” in the way Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount.
- 2) Define the Greek terms *makarios* and *telios* (translated as “blessed” and “righteous”). How do they speak to you personally? How might they speak to our culture at large?
- 3) Jesus’ description of a life of flourishing is quite different from the one we’re presented by the world. Take a look at the beatitudes and discuss some of the differences.
- 4) Jesus speaks with authority as He preaches the Sermon on the Mount, calling the crowds to repent and re-orient their lives around Him and His Kingdom. How is Jesus calling you right now to honor Him as the authority and king of your life? How can your group pray for you?

Matthew 5:1-12

- 1) What does "blessedness" or "flourishing" look like in the eyes of the world? How does it compare to Jesus' idea of blessing/flourishing found in the beatitudes?
- 2) Spend some time reflecting on the beatitudes. What do you notice? What surprises you? What do you have questions about?
- 3) Of all the beatitudes, which is most difficult for you to follow? Why?
- 4) Jesus is the perfect fulfillment and embodiment of every beatitude. Think of a story when Jesus displays one (or more) of the beatitudes. What would it look like for Jesus to display that beatitude to you right now?
- 5) According to Jesus, those who follow him should expect to be persecuted. How have you seen or experienced this personally or with others? How might you ask the Lord to help you (and other believers) respond when persecution arises?
- 6) Spend some time praying as a group through these beatitudes—that you would more fully display them and in turn experience this “life of flourishing.”

Matthew 5:13-16

- 1) Today's theme is on salt & light. Share a personal story when one or both of these practical things were lacking—you had a meal that lacked taste, you were in a dark, scary place, etc. What were the circumstances? How did you feel?
- 2) Before we can be salt & light to others, Jesus must first be salt and light to us. How has Jesus “preserved and flavored” your life? In what ways has Jesus shined into your life, exposing darkness, revealing sin, and leading you to more fully follow Him?
- 3) Jesus calls His disciples “the salt of the earth.” What does He mean? Where do you see the need for preservation and flavoring in your family, neighborhood, workplace, or community?
- 4) Jesus also calls His followers “the light of the world.” What does He mean? What areas of darkness in and around you do you see that need the light of Christ?
- 5) How might you more effectively be salt & light to the world? What is a practical next step you can take this week? Spend time as a group praying for one another.

Matthew 5:17-20

- 1) Growing up, what was your relationship with the law? Did you obey it, fear it, rebel against it, minimize it, expand it, etc.? Share a story that illustrates this.
- 2) What does Jesus mean when He says He came to fulfill the law?
- 3) Jesus came to display His authority as He inaugurated His Kingdom. When was a time you rested in His authority and found hope and joy in Him?
- 4) Jesus warns His disciples not to relax the commandments of God or teach others to do the same. Where might you be tempted to do this?
- 5) Jesus says that our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees to enter the kingdom of heaven. What does He mean?
- 6) How is Jesus calling you to love and submit to His authority right now? How can your group pray for you in this endeavor?

Matthew 5:21-30

- 1) Share a story about a time when you got angry. What were the circumstances? How did it impact you and others? What did you learn from it?
- 2) In this section, Jesus begins to expand upon the law to help us see the heart of the law and ultimately the heart of God. What do we learn about both?
- 3) Jesus warns that our anger can have tremendous consequences and offers a path to reconciliation. How have you seen or experienced this?
- 4) Is there a relationship that is broken? If so, what steps can you take to make things right? Spend some time in prayer as a group asking for God to heal the relationship.
- 5) Jesus also warns us about lust and offers a path to repentance. Do you resonate with the struggles Jesus mentions concerning lust? How might He be inviting you to take steps towards greater purity? Be specific.

Matthew 5:31-37

- 1) How has divorce impacted your life?
- 2) Jesus provides some helpful instructions for divorce and remarriage. For additional instruction, go to Mark 10:1-12. What questions do you have? How have you seen Jesus' instructions followed well or not so well?
- 3) What areas of brokenness are you currently experiencing related to your marriage or a divorce? How might you pray for healing from the Lord? What steps might you take to seek pursue reconciliation?
- 4) Jesus also provides some instructions for taking oaths and making promises. How would you summarize it? How might you apply this your life?

Matthew 5:38-48

- 1) Some people say we're to defend ourselves at all costs. Others say we're to not take sides or fight against our enemies. What do you say?
- 2) Jesus provides some instruction and examples from the first century regarding retaliation. What does He mean? What might be some modern-day examples to apply these principles to our lives?
- 3) Jesus calls us not only to not retaliate, but to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. How does that command land on you?
- 4) Who is Jesus calling you to love right now? What might be keeping you from loving them, what would it cost you? Be honest.
- 5) Jesus never calls us to do what He has not already done. How has He fulfilled this passage of Scripture? Spend some time personalizing how Jesus has loved you, despite your sin & rebellion. How might His love flow to you and through you to others?