

THE BEATITUDES: Our King — His Kingdom — His Citizens

1. Introduction and Overview

Questions

Chris

1. The events of 2020 have exposed a grim reality -- that Christians in America are experiencing an identity crisis -- defining themselves by what they are against, rather than by the heart and ways of Jesus and His kingdom -- though you claim to bear the name of Jesus; are you acting, thinking, and living in ways that look like Him?
2. Today we learned that Matthew 5 is one of the "uphill" moments of Jesus' ministry. The Christian life is filled with these types of moments. God is working in the lives of people around you -- touching and blessing -- and then Jesus figuratively goes up a hill and sits down. It is in these "uphill" moments that Jesus instructs and corrects His disciples. They are not easy or comfortable, because these moments call for a greater personal cost to be near Him and to hear His words. Are you ready for this moment in your life? Are you willing to count the cost to be near Him and hear His words?
3. As Pastor Richard unpacked the word "blessed" -- how does that affect how you see Jesus' kingdom, your citizenship, identity, and the way you should be living here and now?
4. In light of your new understanding of "blessed" in Matthew 5:1-12 -- The way of being (that character) that leads to blessing (Makários) results from a living relationship with the King and His citizens, and the transforming power of His rule in our lives. Consequently, then, how should you "be" in regard to the frustrations you may be experiencing in your home, job, relationships -- in the realm of politics, and social issues -- with regard to the pandemic? What should you be navigating these issues? Are you experiencing the "blessings" Jesus describes in our study this morning? If not, what needs to change?
5. The mission of Jesus is about people who embrace Him as redeemer and King and identify with his character, his nature, his heart, and his lifestyle. Can that be said of you; of your desire? Are you ready to follow Him further up and further in?

Travis

1. Once again, in Matthew 4:24-25, we see that nothing is impossible with Jesus as he healed the sick and those afflicted with various diseases and pains. Do you believe this today in the circumstances you face that nothing is impossible with Jesus?
2. How does it encourage you that God has a Kingdom that is far superior to the kingdom of man?
3. How do you define "blessed," and how does Jesus define "blessed"?
4. How have you been blessed by God?