

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 29th January 2017

... THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN...
The Beatitudes

As we Gather

Through the prophets and His anointed leaders God repeatedly told His people what He required of them while they lived in the Promised Land. Likewise, Jesus made (and makes) it clear what is required of believers who enter His kingdom by accepting and trusting Him as Saviour, Lord and Master.

Reading Scripture **Mica 6:1-8** **Psalms 15** **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** **Matthew 5:1-12**

Thinking Together

It has been said that in chapters 5 – 7 of his Gospel, Mark reveals the core / essence of the kingdom of heaven as taught by Jesus to His disciples. In His kingdom what really matters is faithful obedience from the heart.

The beatitudes describe a state into which the Christian has already entered, and each beatitude promises blessing – the experience of divine joy and perfect happiness which comes from within, and does not depend on outward circumstances

Share with the group an occasion on which you have felt serene / calm and confident, even though going through difficulties.

Christianity may / can disrupt work, social life and home life, because kingdom people have attitudes to life which differ from those of the world.

- Attitude toward self (Matthew 5:3).
This encompasses a correct estimate of self, recognising and accepting weaknesses and strengths with a humble spirit (Romans 12:3)

How can such an attitude free you to be yourself to bring glory to God? Discuss

- Attitude toward our sins (Matthew 5:4-6).
This leads us to see our sin as God sees it, and to mourn and despise what we now repent. We submit to God because we see this submission as power under control; not as weakness, but a striving after goodness / righteousness (Luke 18:8-14 Philippians 3:1-4
Numbers 12:3 Matthew 11:29)

Is repentance of sin a “once off” event? Discuss

- Attitude toward the Lord (Matthew 5:7-9).
We experience God’s mercy when we trust Christ (Ephesians 2:4-9). He gives us a clean heart (Acts 15:8-9) and peace within (Romans 5:1-2), so that we become channels for God’s mercy, purity and peace

How can you share your God-given mercy with others? Discuss

How can Christians today become peace-makers – in the home? Discuss
- **In the church? Discuss**
- **In Society? Discuss**

- Attitude toward the world (Matthew 5:10-12).
Whether we like it or not there is conflict between Christians and the world. If we live as God wants us to live, we must expect this

Why is the world in conflict with kingdom people / Christians? Discuss

In Closing

Peter Lewis writes “Only the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (To) enter His kingdom is to enter an abundant life and to follow His will is the way of peace. So the Church prays for herself and for the world.”

Why did Jesus tell His disciples to feel blessed when they were persecuted / slandered?

PRAYER

God of all blessing,
in Christ you open for us new way of living:
purge us of our easy acceptance of the ways of the world,
and forge in us the radical vision of your reign, that through
Jesus Christ our Lord, your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen