

Living Life in Jesus' Way

1 How to be a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 5:1-12)

Introduction

One model we use to talk about the Church is the picture of the 'Gathered People of God'. And sometimes great blessings come upon the gathered Church (Acts 2 v 1). Our mission is to preach the Gospel to all (Matt 28:19) and we thrive in great gatherings of worshipping Christians.

But Coronavirus has brought us into isolation, and 'How to be a disciple of Jesus' becomes a different question when we cannot meet up and share with other people.

Discussion

How has isolation affected (a) your life? (b) your spiritual life?

Read Matthew 5:1-5

1 What does the writer mean by 'poor in spirit'?

'Blessed' implies that God still has something rich to impart when we feel low.

2 In what ways do those who mourn feel particularly isolated?

I remember telling my Father when my Mother died, 'The good times are not over, but they will be different.'

Read Psalm 40 v 1 – 3

3 In the light of questions 1 & 2 how does this psalm make you feel?

4 Discuss the value of meekness and humility compared with pride, arrogance and conceit.

See also Galatians 5 v 22-23

The other night on BBC Jurgen Klopp was giving his reaction to the news that Manchester City had lost to Chelsea, which meant that Liverpool had won the Premier League Title. Amongst other things he said, 'We've got to stay humble.'

Mother Theresa once said:-

If you are humble, nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.

Read Matthew 5v 6 – 9 Disciples who make a difference

These four beatitudes target injustices and require us to do the right thing.

5 How might Micah 6 v 8 relate to each of these four beatitudes?

6 Highlight some charities which work against injustice in society.

Recently Tim suggested the following as a way to move forward:-

Bless your Neighbour; Build Community; Bring Good News.

7 Can you see a connection between Tim's suggestion and these four beatitudes?

Read Matthew 5 v 10-12

8 Do you think our Churches in the UK face persecution today?

9 Can you think of examples of hate crime taking place where the person targeted was just trying to do the right thing?

10 Society needs to hear two messages:-

(a) Antisocial Behaviour Will Not Be Tolerated

**(b) Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires;
God will satisfy them fully! (Verse 6, Good News)**

How much do you agree/disagree with the above messages?

11 As we consider all nine beatitudes, in what ways do they address the problems caused by pride and prejudice?