

Series - Open Topic
Topic - The Beatitudes: Our UVP to our Nation

Date - 9 August 2020
Speaker - Lam Zheng Xin

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. The Potter's Hand
2. Purify My Heart

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Desire to live out the beatitudes in their lives
2. To desire to be a disciple and not part of the crowd

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. The call to be salt and light begins in discipleship – living out the beatitudes in one's life.
2. The foundational beatitude to have is being "poor in spirit". Without this, we will struggle to live out the rest of the beatitudes in our lives.
3. Living out the beatitudes is contrary to the world's pattern of living. Therefore, persecution is to be expected.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Passage – Matthew 5:1-15

1. Introduction
 - As disciples of Christ, we are called to be the difference in society.
 - While everyone else in society wants to do the same, Christians are to be different because we live a 'salt and light' life as an overflow of the beatitudes in our lives.
2. Being "poor in spirit" (5:3)
 - This is the fundamental beatitude from whence all other beatitudes will flow.
 - While the pattern of this world is self-sufficiency", being "poor in spirit" is about recognising our inadequacy to live out the life that God desires.

- Only when we recognise our inadequacy and allow Christ to live in us, can we be salt and light in this world.
3. Being “meek” (5:5)
 - The pattern of this world is self-assertiveness. Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness. It is about us depending more on God.
 - It is not being passive, but actively walking in step with God and following His leading, just as Christ did.
 4. Being “those who mourn” (5:4)
 - This refers to mourning over the sins in our lives and our constant struggle with our flesh.
 - Those who mourn will desire for the coming kingdom of God where sin will ultimately be defeated.
 5. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness (5:6)
 - This righteousness is not just something that is put on us (justification), but something that grows in us (sanctification).
 - It is about living a righteous life in this world and a desire for social justice.
 - This may not always be welcomed in the world, and therefore we are to expect persecution.
 6. Being “merciful”
 - This involves our willingness to enter into people’s messes.
 - It is relational and not transactional.
 - Our calling is first and foremost to love our neighbours and be merciful to them.
 7. Conclusion
 - Let us be a disciple and not “the crowd”.
 - Let us allow Christ to mould us to live our lives according to the beatitudes so that we can be salt and light in this nation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Among all the beatitudes in Matthew 5, which is the one that you struggle with the most?**

2. **The value system of this world and the value system of the kingdom is against each other. Therefore, “persecution” should be expected if we are to live out the beatitudes in the world. Have you ever encountered “persecution” for living out the beatitudes in the world? How should we manage these “persecutions” as salt and light?**

3. **As a cell, discuss how you can spur one another on in your journey of living out these beatitudes in your life.**

WORKS [10 min]

Let us pray for the following items:

1. Response to Message

- That all of us will commit to living out the beatitudes in our lives.
- That we will manage any “persecution” in a Godly way that reflects Christ and not the world.

2. COVID-19 – Phase 2

- Thank the Lord for the decrease in community cases over the past couple of weeks.
- Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and internationally.
- Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this season.

3. National Day

- As we have just celebrated our National Day, take some time to pray for our nation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Church Anniversary and We Belong Conference

We will unite at the E-Gathering on Sat at 2.30-4.30pm and celebrate our 29th Anniversary via Bilingual Online Service on Sun at 9am. Admission is free but registration is compulsory for E-Gathering as each participant will receive a unique password to access the session. Registration is now open at rlc.sg/wb2020.

2. Bible Reading Plan

You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.

3. Marriage Preparation Course (online via Zoom)

6, 13, 27 Sep, 4 & 11 Oct (Sundays, 1.45pm-5pm),
18 Oct (Sun, 2pm-4.30pm) and 17 Oct (Sat, 9am-12.30pm)

Register online at rlc.sg/mpc or email Christine Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg

Church Vision

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.