

Sermon on the Mount – Week Two

The Foundational Character of a Disciple

Matthew 5:1-5

Introduction: As Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount he presents eight character qualities of authentic disciples. These qualities are trans-cultural and apply to all potential disciples anywhere. These qualities form the foundation for all that Jesus will say in the rest of the sermon. By cultivating these qualities, we not only experience God's joy (5:3-12), but they will form the basis for influence in the world (5:13-16).

1. *GETTING ORIENTED – How to interpret the beatitudes. Matthew 5:1-2*

- A. Big idea: The eight beatitudes describe the character-set of those who will excel under Jesus' rule.
- B. The particulars: Each beatitude has three parts: a blessed condition, a character trait & a reward.
- C. Structure: The structure of the beatitudes suggests a missional understanding of life.
- D. Bottom line: These are the eight fundamental qualities disciples cultivate in the power of God.

2. *CHARACTER WITH RESPECT TO MYSELF – Matthew 5:3-5*

- A. Number 1: "Blessed are the *poor in spirit*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." 5:3
- B. Number 2: "Blessed are those who *mourn*, for they shall be comforted." 5:4
- C. Number 3: "Blessed are the *meek*, for they shall inherit the earth." 5:5
- D. Putting it together: In a spirit of humility, disciples rest in the power of God.