

# GATHER 10

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Week of January 29, 2023

This week's discussion questions are based on the Gospel found at Matthew 5:1-12a

- ✚ In the Gospel, Jesus introduces the Beatitudes. To understand their meanings, we must first understand that the word “blessed” is not used in the sense to invoke a blessing but to affirm a quality of spirituality that already exists. Given this definition, does a Beatitude mean a) Blessed are the people who do X because they will receive Y or does it mean b) Look at the spirituality and joy of people who already have (or will receive) both X and Y. What do you think?
- ✚ In the First Beatitude, what do you think Jesus means by “poor in spirit?”
- ✚ In the Second Beatitude, if there is mourning, some kind of suffering lies behind it. Do you think this means that Christians should seek out suffering and/or rejoice in sickness, disasters, persecution, pain, and death? Please share.
- ✚ In the Third Beatitude, who are the meek?
- ✚ In the Fourth Beatitude, why do you think Jesus focuses on those who seek righteousness rather than those who are righteous or who live righteously?
- ✚ The Fifth Beatitude addresses “showing mercy.” How do you show mercy in your everyday life?
- ✚ In the Sixth Beatitude, what do you feel “pure in heart” means: a) one single focus and motive, i.e., no hidden agenda, b) internal purity, i.e., clean thoughts, no hate, no smut, or c) open transparency to God and others, i.e., what you see is what you get?
- ✚ In the Seventh Beatitude, do you feel the “peacemakers” are those who a) are peaceful, b) are pacifists, c) are mediators, d) don't understand God's peace.
- ✚ In the Eighth Beatitude, do you feel this verse means being persecuted for a) doing what is right, b) standing up for justice, c) striving for ethical perfection, d) promoting God's word, e) something else?
- ✚ In the Ninth Beatitude, this is the first one in which Jesus has inserted himself (“because of me”). Why do you think He did this?
- ✚ Which of these Beatitudes will you focus on this coming week?

## *Prayer Intentions*