

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.
2. What's been your experience with the Sermon on the Mount? What part has it played in your discipleship? What parts have you found to be most memorable or helpful?
3. Can you think of an experience in your life where you felt completely spiritually bankrupt?
 - a. How did you understand that experience at the time?
 - b. Does Sunday's passage adjust your understanding of that experience at all?
4. Can you think of an experience in your life when you truly mourned over sin (yours or others)?
 - a. How did you understand that experience at the time?
 - b. Does Sunday's passage adjust your understanding of that experience at all?
5. Compare Jesus' beatitudes to some of those in the Psalms and Proverbs (Psalm 1:1, 2:12, 32:1-2, 33:12, 40:4, 41:1, 84:4, 106:3, 119:1-2, 128:1, Proverbs 14:21).
 - a. Do you see any patterns or themes emerge in the Old Testament beatitudes?
 - b. What connections or contrasts do you see between these beatitudes and those of Jesus?
 - c. Do Jesus' first two beatitudes strike you as good news? Why or why not?
6. Last week we considered how the kingdom of God is already here, and also not yet here.
 - a. What aspects of the Beatitudes (in Matthew 5:3-12) are already here?
 - b. What aspects are not yet here?
 - c. Name one way that this understanding could impact your daily life.
7. Consider how the word "blessed" points to "the good life."
 - a. If you didn't have God's word to guide you, how would you probably define "the good life"?
 - b. What are some practical changes that might come to your thinking, feeling or behaviour if you embraced Jesus' definition of "the good life" in the beatitudes?