

Matt 5:1-20; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-26 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In Matt 5:3-5 what are the first 3 “beatitudes” and their meaning? What do these have in common? Why would one be “happy” or “blessed” if they had these traits?

5. Look at Matt 5:6. What characteristic is blessed in this verse and what does that look like in everyday life? What is the blessing?

6. From Matt 5:7-9 what 3 further characteristics are named, what do they mean, and what blessing does each receive? Why is each necessary for building Christ’s kingdom?

7. Read Matt 5:10-12. What can be expected for Christ followers and why is this a blessing? How are they to respond to this and why (v10, 11-12)?

8. Compare Luke 6:20-26 with Matt 5:3-12. What is different about the two lists and what further teaching is presented about the “blessed” life (v24-26)? What is His point?

9. In Matt 5:13-16 what two metaphors are used to describe how Christ’s followers are to relate to the world (v13, 14-16) and what do they teach about how to live for Jesus?

10. From Matt 5:17-20 what two things does Jesus emphasize (v17-18, 19-20)? Why would each have been surprising to His hearers and how should we apply these to our lives?

11. Review the eight beatitudes and how to apply them to your life. Why do you think this was Jesus’ first major teaching for His disciples?

Scripture to Remember

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Battling from the Bottom (1 Kings 20)

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with your group about your favorite war movie and why you like it. Throw out your ideas about what you think it takes to win a battle.
2. Read 1 Kings 20:1-12 and summarize the disadvantages King Ahab faced. Why does the fact that our enemy is spiritual, strong, and scheming but us at a similar disadvantage?
3. Talk about some of the ways that Satan, like Ben-hadad did to Israel, tries to intimidate us. How do you typically respond to that?
4. In what ways does Satan kill, steal from us, and destroy us. What are some of the reasons that we, like Ahab, often give in to his plans without a fight?
5. Why is it so important to rally support from others when you are battling from the bottom? What are some specific, practical ways to do this?
6. Discuss why you think God told Ahab that he would begin the battle. What application can we make to our lives from this?
7. What would it look like for you to admit your weakness as you battle Satan daily?



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The Ground Floor

Matt 5:1-20; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-26



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

When a person gets in on the ground floor of an elevator they don't miss a thing as they ride all the way to the top. It's the same way in life—getting in at the start offers the opportunity for a more accurate perspective. This is seen this week in the ministry of Jesus; He began to build His kingdom in earnest so He had to do a couple of things. First, He needed to gather a support team, so, He called His partners, or disciples, to the ministry and laid out for them the basic, foundational principles upon which His kingdom would be built. He knew He needed a specific team upon which He could count. He spent the entire night in prayer so He could receive direction from the Father about who to choose. His purpose for them was threefold: one was to simply be with Him so they could later carry on His way of life; a second was to help Him preach; and last, they would exorcise demons. Having chosen them He then presented the

seminal teachings of His kingdom in His well-known "Sermon on the Mount". The starting point for this message was "the beatitudes", eight principles for living the "blessed" life. "Blessed" means "happy", and the principles identified would indeed allow His followers the live the "happy" life of God's blessings. The first group blessed were those "poor [in spirit]", the second were "mourners" and the third were the "meek". These three internal traits focused awareness on one's lack of personal resources and power to succeed, and redirect to God as that source. Jesus next upheld the value of hungering for righteousness, then of showing mercy, of being pure in heart, and of acting as peacemakers. These characteristics would enable Jesus' followers to minister to people with the right motives, carrying out the work that Jesus came to do. If embodied these seven ideals would allow Jesus' followers to endure any situation and turn it into good as they built His kingdom.

The final beatitude underscored the conflict that would occur with the world as these characteristics were lived. Persecution would come as people sensed the difference between Jesus' way of life and their own. While some would see their good works and glorify the Father, many would seek to eliminate those who shone light on their evil behavior by their righteousness. This, however, was a blessing and a cause for rejoicing, rather than backing down. In fact the righteousness of those whom God accepts must be greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees, which is possible only by faith in Christ. In all, then, these teachings were the ground floor of the kingdom.

Study Questions for Matt 5:1-20; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-26

(for answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

1. Read Luke 6:11-19. What is significant about the timing of Jesus' choice of His disciples (v11) and the process He used to select them (v12-13)? What official name did they have (v13)?	
2. From Mark 3:13-19 what 3 things were these apostles to do (v14, 15) and why was each important? What impresses you about the ones He selected?	
3. Overview Matt 5:1-10. What is the motivation Jesus offers to follow His teachings (v3, 4, 5, etc)? Who was His focus (v1-2) and why? In general what was to be their focus in helping build the kingdom?	

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