

TAKEAWAY

The Radical King

Transformation through the story of Jesus

IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we began looking at The Sermon on the Mount, which starts with what are known as 'the beatitudes'. To understand this passage, it is helpful to know what blessing is. To bless is to impart happiness – in other words, to give happiness to another. In this passage, Jesus talks about the circumstances in which God gives deep-seated happiness to people. What He says is quite counter-intuitive...

DISCUSS

1. What things do you do to make yourself happier? (Both healthy and unhealthy things)
2. What does our culture tell us to do to make ourselves happier? To what extent does this work?

READ

Matthew 5:1-12

EXPLAIN

Matt summarised what Jesus is getting at with this list of truths:

1. *Ditch your pride*
2. *Admit you're wrong*
3. *Don't impose your agenda*
4. *Seek justice for others*
5. *Show mercy*
6. *Get a new heart*

7. *Make peace*

8. *Expect persecution*
(For doing 1-7)

DISCUSS

3. How would you put the beatitudes in your own words?
4. How could it be that these things are a recipe for a blessed life?
5. Which do you willingly embrace? Which is probably the hardest for you?
6. When we read the beatitudes, especially in isolation, it would be easy to turn them into a 'to do list' in order to earn God's favour. Certainly, Jesus is saying 'this is how my people live, this is the way, follow me and do it'. But at the same time, He's

showing us that what God wants for us to do is so out of our league that we cannot do it by ourselves. How can we live out the call of the beatitudes whilst not getting into the mindset that good behaviour is the way to earn God's favour?

7. Nobody has ever perfectly lived out the beatitudes except the person who gave them. How does this encourage you? Inspire you?

8. If a friend who wanted a follower of Jesus asked you how you find happiness as a Christian, what would you say?

PRAY

