

Home Group Discussion Questions

TBC SERMON SERIES: Learning From Jesus
Message #1: The Character of Discipleship
Matthew 5:1-12
Dave Tate
April 16, 2023



To watch or listen to this sermon, go to www.templebiblechurch.org

MY STORY:

- 1) What things does the world tell us we need to be happy? Do those things always make someone happy? Elaborate.

- 2) Have you ever had to endure something very unpleasant in order to receive something much better in the future? Explain.

QUICK REVIEW:

This week we launch our new series on Learning From Jesus, a look at the Sermon on the Mount. This is probably the most famous teaching section by Jesus found in Scripture, providing his disciples a contrasting framework for viewing their lives with each other and God than was popularly held. Was there anything from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? How would you summarize the main ideas of this week's message?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Matthew 4:23-5:2.

- 1) What is going on in Jesus' ministry at this time? What do you think it would have been like to be in the crowd?

- 2) Who does Jesus begin to teach? Who makes up that group?

Read Matthew 5:3-9.

- 3) We often hear "Blessed" explained as "Happy". Thinking strictly in terms of *happiness* in English can be misleading. More fully it is the idea of "happy, fortunate, or flourishing". It is a state of being opposite of "woe". How would you describe what Jesus is telling them in verse 3?

- 4) Walk through several of Jesus' statements. What is he saying in each one and how does it contrast with the normal view of the world?

Read Matthew 5:10-12.

- 5) We do not face persecution in the United States in the same way many others have, with threat of torture or death. We can face persecution in the sense of verse 11, however. Have you ever experienced anything like verse 11 describes? Elaborate.
- 6) Do you feel we are subject to much persecution in the United States? Why or why not?
- 7) How does this entire section, known as the Beatitudes, put life in perspective?

TAKING IT HOME:

- 1) Personally evaluate your willingness to face persecution for your faith. Would you be willing to die for your faith? Would you be willing to be mocked? Would you be willing to be inconvenienced?
- 2) Are there places where you need to be more bold in your faith (but not obnoxious!), but have not been because of fear of how you would be received? How can you correct that?

Prayer Requests:

