8

Blessed are

those who are persecuted for righteousness sake

☐	Mon	2-Nov	Mark 10:24-45	You will drink the cup that I drink
☐	Tue	3-Nov	Acts 5:27-42	Rejoicing... worthy of suffering disgrace
☐	Wed	4-Nov	Matt 5:38-48	Love enemies and pray for those who persecute you
☐	Thu	5-Nov	John 15:18-27	If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also
☐	Fri	6-Nov	2 Cor 4:1-18	We are persecuted but not abandoned
☐	Sat	7-Nov		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	8-Nov	Matthew 5:10-11	Persecuted... they shall inherit the kingdom

1. What are some examples of persecution either in your own life or in others around the world? (Visit web sites like www.persecution.com for information)
2. Jesus promised that we would be persecuted. If persecution is largely absent, what conclusions might we draw?
3. What are some of the "good things" that can come out of persecution?

for they shall inherit the Kingdom

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1

Blessed are

those who are poor in spirit

Please adapt the general questions each week for personal, family, or small group use. Use the blank space to write your answers, reflections and other gleanings. Use Study Bibles, etc. to enrich your understanding and transformation.

☐	Mon	14-Sep	Romans 12:1-8	Do not think of yourselves too highly
☐	Tue	15-Sep	Rev. 3:14-22	You say, "I am rich" but you are poor
☐	Wed	16-Sep	Psalm 34:1-10	This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him
☐	Thu	17-Sep	Luke 18:9-30	God have mercy on me, a sinner
☐	Fri	18-Sep	Matt 25:31-46	When did we see you hungry and feed you, Lord
☐	Sat	19-Sep		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	20-Sep	Matt 5:3	Poor in spirit ...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

1. What do you think of your spiritual maturity? How does that impact how you treat/work/live with others?
2. When do you rely on God most? When things are going well for you physically and financially, how does that correspond to your spiritual well being?
3. What does it mean to be blessed? If the Lord promises us every good thing, what does that encompass? How has God blessed you and in turn enabled you to bless others?
4. If you have "everything" (good health, financial security, etc.) how can God bless you?

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

2

Blessed are those who mourn

☐	Mon	21-Sep	Ezra 9:8-10:6	Here we are before you in our guilt
☐	Tue	22-Sep	Psalm 126	Go out weeping will come in with songs of joy
☐	Wed	23-Sep	Romans 7:15-24	Rescue me from this life dominated by sin
☐	Thu	24-Sep	Matt 26.58-75	Peter weeps bitterly after his betrayal of Jesus
☐	Fri	25-Sep	Rev 7:9-17	God will wipe away every tear from their eyes
☐	Sat	26-Sep		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	27-Sep	Matt 5:4	Those who mourn, for they will be comforted

1. What does it mean to "mourn" your own sin?

2. What kinds of physical, emotional, or spiritual symptoms can manifest themselves because of sin?

3. What is God's comfort and restoration like in the face of "mourning our sin?"

for they shall be comforted

7

Blessed are those who are peacemakers

☐	Mon	26-Oct	Eph 2:11-22	Christ our Peacemaker
☐	Tue	27-Oct	James 3:9-18	But wisdom from heaven is peace loving
☐	Wed	28-Oct	Psalm 120:1-7	Too long have I lived among those who hate peace
☐	Thu	29-Oct	Luke 6:32-38	Give to your enemies…you will be sons…of God
☐	Fri	30-Oct	Rom 12:9-21	Live at peace with everyone
☐	Sat	31-Oct		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	1-Nov	Matthew 5:9	The peacemakers…called sons of God

1. What does it mean to be a "peaceful presence " in the midst of anxiety or conflict? Can you think of an example from your own life where you've seen that happen? Or sadly not happen?
2. Sometimes our behavior is shaped by these kinds of sayings: "Once burned, twice shy," OR "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me" How do these compare to the scriptural principle in the passage from Luke 6?
3. How do the previous Beatitudes build into this one?
4. Connect "live at peace" (Romans) with "Christ our peace" (Eph).

for they shall be called sons of God

6

Blessed are

those who are pure in heart

☐	Mon	19-Oct	Heb 12:14-29	Without holiness no one will see the Lord
☐	Tue	20-Oct	Romans 1:18-27	Their foolish hearts were darkened
☐	Wed	21-Oct	Psalm 24	Who may ascend .... clean hands and a pure heart
☐	Thu	22-Oct	Matt 12 25-37	Out of the overflow of the hear the mouth speaks
☐	Fri	23-Oct	John 15:1-17	You are already clean because of the Word
☐	Sat	24-Oct		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	25-Oct	Matthew 5:8	Those who are pure in heart… see God

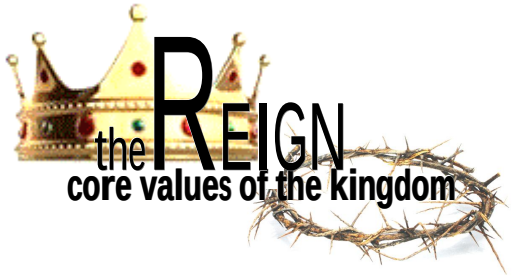
1. Is it possible to have sin in your physical life yet to remain pure in heart? (e.g. Have a strong prayer life, yet treat others poorly or have addictions)
2. What are some common "impurities" in our hearts?
3. How do the impurities in my heart affect my ability to see God, and to gain His perspective on things?
4. What connection is there between being pure in heart and what comes out of our mouths?

for they shall see God

3

Blessed are

those who are meek



☐	Mon	28-Sep	Matt 11:25-30	I am meek and lowly in heart
☐	Tue	29-Sep	Psalm 37:1-11	The meek will inherit the land
☐	Wed	30-Sep	2 Cor 10:1-11	By the meekness of Christ
☐	Thu	1-Oct	Romans 4:1-16	Those who live by faith inherit the promise
☐	Fri	2-Oct	James 1:19-27	Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry
☐	Sat	3-Oct		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	4-Oct	Matthew 5:5	Meek… for they will inherit the earth

1. Does being meek imply weakness or strength?
2. What are some of the possible definitions of meekness?
3. What kind of meekness is in the Bible? (e.g. Moses, Paul, Jesus)
4. Why is "inheriting the earth" the perfect blessing for the meek?

for they shall inherit the earth

4

Blessed are

those who hunger and thirst after righteousness

☐	Mon	5-Oct	Matthew 6:25-34	Seek first the Kingdom and all will be added
☐	Tue	6-Oct	John 6:25-40	He who comes to me will never go hungry
☐	Wed	7-Oct	Prov 16:16-33	How much better to get wisdom than gold
☐	Thu	8-Oct	John 4:7-15	Give me that water, so I won't need the well
☐	Fri	9-Oct	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song: He has filled the hungry
☐	Sat	10-Oct		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	11-Oct	Matthew 5:6	Hunger after righteousness….they will be filled

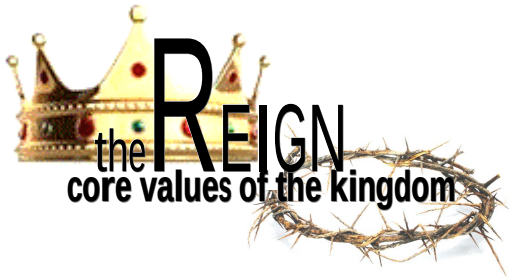
1. What are the kinds of things we usually hunger after?
2. Is it ever possible to be full or satisfied?
3. If righteousness is defined as being "rightly related to God and to others," then how do we hunger after that? How do we pursue right relationships with people we have a problem with, or with God?
4. If Jesus met you at "the well" like He did the woman in John 4, how would he get in your face *and* provide hope about *your* appetite?

for they shall be filled

5

Blessed are

those who are merciful



☐	Mon	12-Oct	Matthew 6:1-15	If you forgive others, you will be forgiven
☐	Tue	13-Oct	Matt 18:15-35	How many times shall I forgive my brother
☐	Wed	14-Oct	Psalm 41	Have mercy; heal me, for I have sinned
☐	Thu	15-Oct	Isaiah 58:6-12	To set the oppressed free and break every yoke
☐	Fri	16-Oct	Mark 11:12-25	When you pray, if you hold anything against another
☐	Sat	17-Oct		*Catch up and reflect*
☐	Sun	18-Oct	Matthew 5:7	Merciful….shall receive mercy

1. Why does Jesus always connect forgiving others and prayer?
2. What kinds of stories of radical forgiveness can you tell? What were the keys to forgiveness that Jesus showed?
3. How do we forgive someone who is unrepentant? How do we show mercy to someone who in our eyes is undeserving of mercy?
4. In what sense can forgiveness be a spiritual discipline (similar to prayer, worship, study, service, silence, fasting, etc.)

for they shall receive mercy