

Bible Study for Sunday 02/02/2020

Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Micah 6: 1-8

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew Questions:

- What sticks out to you?
- What would you say the theme of this text is?
- What does “blessed” mean to you?
 - How has this word been used for good?
 - How has it done or been damaged?
- What do these groups seem to have in common?
 - What does that tell us about how Jesus sees blessedness?
- Taking what we know or have come to understand about the groups being blessed, do you think that we ourselves want to be a part of this group?
 - Why?
- Look over the list of the “beatitudes” which one do you think would be the hardest to be a part of?

Share a time when you tried to impress another person. What did you do? Did your efforts succeed?

Micah Questions:

- What are you hearing in this text?
- What is it that Lord requires of you? What does this mean?
- In what ways do we often “perform” for other people to make ourselves look good?
 - How do these “performances” impact our Shepherd community?
- Is it wrong to worship God with extravagant, creative, or high-end means? Why or why not?
- In what areas of life do you go through the motions rather than put in the hard work of preparing your heart for worship?
 - What life adjustments can you make this week to develop a heart of pure and genuine obedience?
- How do the commands found in Micah 6:8 translate into service in the community?
- How might these two texts join together?