

THE ATTITUDE OF LIVING BEAUTIFULLY IN A BROKEN WORLD # Mark Scandrette

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Matt 5v1-12 - The 9-fold path of Jesus - Hidden wisdom of the beatitudes

Mark leads an organisation called "ReImagine: a centre for living wisdom" and sees the Beatitudes as Jesus' manifesto for living. With each one we can learn to move from darkness to light, from distorted thoughts to reality and from first instincts to new posture. (So each beatitude below has a From/To statement)

When you first wake up, what do you seek to do and be? As Jesus followers, Mark suggests: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And to love your neighbour as yourself.*" (Matt22v37-39) and he's using the beatitudes as an "examen" for spiritual formation - "a progressive journey of becoming like Christ by learning to see the world as Jesus did and acting from a more accurate understanding of who God is, who we are, and how life works."

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit. From close-handed anxiety to open-handed trust.

Where don't you have enough? What are your desires? Ask, Seek, Knock. Learn to live in intra-dependence.
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of trust.

2. Blessed at those who mourn. From pain avoidance to the way of lament.

How do we distract ourselves from pain? Running from pain doesn't help. What makes us sad, disappointed?
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of lament.

3. Blessed are the meek. From comparing and competing to humility.

Identity is not achieving or doing, but comes from who we are in Christ, in his image. Inherent dignity.
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of humility.

4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. From passive indifference to embrace our power to do good.

How do you want the world to become different? How do we join what God is doing in the world? Choices.
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of justice.

5. Blessed are the merciful. From looking with judgement and contempt to seeing with eyes of compassion.

Who's good and bad? Are we self-loathing? Who do you struggle to forgive? We're not broken, but beloved.
Prayer: Lord lead us into the way of compassion.

6. Blessed are the pure in heart. From hiding and pretending to wholehearted honesty.

Masks stop us connecting with each other and with God. What are we hiding behind? (Adam and Eve hid).
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of right motives.

7. Blessed are the peacemakers. From dividing by "Us" and "Them" to reaching past differences to connect.

Where is my conflict and difference? With whom will we reconcile? NB - we all have the same Parent.
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of peacemaking.

8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness. From reacting defensively to non-violent resistance.

Let God have the justice, let us surrender to suffering. Where have I been mistreated for doing good?
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of surrender.

9. Blessed are you... (v11-12) From fear and cowardice to courage and radical love.

There is a cost for choosing love. Where is there fear in my life? Death is not the end, life comes after life.
Prayer: Lord lead us in the way of radical love.

Gandhi took one beatitude and made transformation - what would happen if we took all 9? (Paraphrase of E Stanley Jones). We should take Jesus' teaching seriously. Review this examen daily!

- Mark noted that some of the "shifts" (From/To) are easier than others, and this varies for each of us. Honestly share the easy and hard ones and discuss ways we can help each other to live more like Jesus.
- Toward the end of your time together read each of the beatitudes, the From/To comments and the Prayers. For further information visit markscandrette.com Consider participating in his Ninefold Path Lab.

16 April 2023. Emmaus Rd., Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford