

## **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

### **APRIL 18, 2021**

*“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” - Jesus*

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12. Why do you think Jesus begins his sermon with the beatitudes — a list describing a life that is blessed or flourishing?
2. Webster’s Dictionary defines *poverty* as “the state of one with insufficient resources.” Based on this definition, what does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?
3. How has recognizing your lack of spiritual resources helped you flourish? How does being poor in spirit prepare us for the kingdom of heaven?
4. How does our world typically view mourning? What are some ways that people in our city seek to avoid mourning or to find comfort rather than mourning?
5. What do Joel 2:12-13 and James 4:7-10 say about the role of mourning in the spiritual life?
6. How does godly mourning lead to flourishing, while worldly grief leads to something destructive (2 Corinthians 7:10)? How have you experienced godly mourning over your sin and the sin in our world?
7. Webster’s defines meek as “enduring injury with patience and without resentment.” How counter-cultural is meekness in a world of entitlement, demands for personal rights, outrage politics, and insistence that everyone agrees with my view?
8. How can a sense of entitlement get in the way of your relationship with God or skew your perception of God?
9. It has been said that godly humility leads us, not to think less *of ourselves*, but to think *about ourselves* less. How would this kind of humility work to counter our fragility, defensiveness and self-justification?
10. A modern view of self commonly says we should look within ourselves at our desires in order to determine who we are — that you discover the ‘real you’ by looking at your inner feelings and self-expression. How do the first three beatitudes contradict this approach to life?
11. Read Isaiah 53 and Philippians 2:1-18. Based on our study, how did Christ perfectly model this way of flourishing in the world for us? What most stirs your heart and mind as you read these verses about Jesus?