

WEEK 2 | MATTHEW 5:7-9

A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

PRAY TO OPEN.

THEME.

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of his kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In our new series, *A Beautiful Kingdom*, we will study Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under his rule and reign, and live as his representatives where we work, live and play.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group?
2. Read the beatitudes in full again (vv. 3-11). What differences do you notice between those found in vv. 3-6 and vv. 7-9? How does verse 6 explain the shift?

Hint: One commentator put it like this: "The first four beatitudes express in one way or another our dependence on God; the next three the outworking of that dependence."¹

3. Consider the beatitude found in verse 7. Who has shown you mercy? How have you experienced God's mercy? In what ways does your life reflect the mercy of your King?
4. Consider the beatitude found in verse 8. To be pure in heart is to live holy, because God has made you righteous through Jesus Christ. What areas of your life are not pure? How are you experiencing the sanctifying work of the Lord right now?
5. Consider the beatitude found in verse 9. Who do you know that you would say is a model of a peacemaker? Why? Who are the individuals in your life that God would have you make peace with?
6. Does this passage answer questions you've wrestling with? What questions do you still have?
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to Matthew*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 100.