

## THE BEATITUDES: BLESSED ARE... PART ONE

### MATTHEW 5:1-6

We had long known the Lord without realizing that meekness and lowliness of heart should be the distinguishing feature of the disciple.

-Andrew Murray

**Additional texts:** Psalm 37, Isaiah 61

#### I. Blessing in Poverty

#### II. Blessing in Mourning

### III. Blessing in Meekness

### IV. Blessing in Desire

### Getting to Know You

1. What is the longest sermon you have listened to?

### Into the Bible

2. In the Old Testament, God's blessing is normally tied to material prosperity in the land that He would give them. Deuteronomy 28 is a good example of that promise of blessing. Read Psalm 84:1-12. This seems to give a larger picture of God's blessing. List some of the blessings, both material and spiritual, that come to those whose soul yearns and whose heart cries out for the living God.

3. The first half of Isaiah 57 is a condemnation of the idolatry that Israel has fallen into, but the focus changes in the second half. Read Isaiah 57:13-21. How is the heart attitude of these repentant Israelites like the spirit that Jesus calls for in the beatitudes? How are the rewards like those that Jesus promises?

## Application

4. Matt spoke of the tensions between the “now” and the “not yet” of the kingdom. Talk with your group about how you deal with those tensions. What do you do when you fail to live up to the standard that Jesus sets, not only here, but all through his ministry?

5. Go back and review the four kingdom characteristics that Matt spoke about this week. Discuss with your group practical ways that you can cultivate them in your life this week.

## For Families

6. Since the word “blessed” is so much a part of the Beatitudes this would be a good opportunity to talk with your children about how God has blessed your family.