

GROWTH GROUPS

October 28, 2012

Introduction to the “Sermon on the Mount”

Conversation Starter –

We all look in the mirror at least once a day. Though it may seem obvious, spend a little time talking about what you hope to see when you look in the mirror. Of course, you will see your “person,” but are you looking for anything more specific?

Understanding -

The Sermon on the Mount and the beatitudes in particular serve to “image” what a true disciple of Jesus looks like. Salvation comes through the grace of God secured by Jesus through his sacrifice on the cross, not by our own working to earn salvation. That being said, someone who has received the gift of salvation and who has been filled by his Spirit will begin to look like Jesus more and more. These passages help us to understand what that image looks like and thus be assured that we are indeed his true followers as we see it reflecting more and more from our life.

1. Read Matthew 7:13-29 focusing on verses 21-23 in particular. In these passages Jesus seeks to draw a stark distinction between those who are genuinely his followers and those who are not. What questions arise as you read this passage? What concerns do you have? What is your emotional response as you read this?
2. The “Sermon on the Mount” was more than likely not an actual, specific sermon that Jesus delivered, but a compilation of Jesus’ teaching that Matthew drew together in order to make a specific point. Matthew uses the mountain as a literary device to connect Jesus to Moses (*who also received God’s teaching on the top of a mountain*) in the reader’s mind. Read Exodus 19:20-20:17 and talk about what Jesus meant when he said, “I have not come to abolish the law, but fulfill it.” (Mt. 5:17)
3. Instead of comparing the beatitudes to the ten commandments (imperatives that must be obeyed in order be blessed by God) they should be seen as more a kin to the “fruit of the Spirit.” Read Galatians 5:16-26 and talk about how the beatitudes compare.
4. As you look at your life in light of the beatitudes, do you see Jesus reflected? Why or why not?

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee

<http://fpcmaumee.org> Email staff@fpcmaumee.org

200 East Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537

Phone 419-893-0223 Fax 419-893-0327