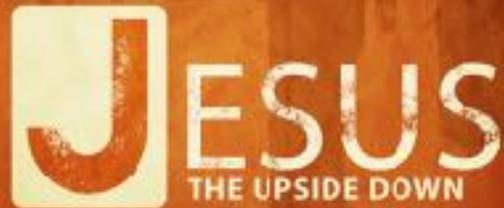


Life Group Discussion Guide

All in the Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-5

Stuart Jones - January 20, 2019



INTRODUCTION

God created us as incomplete human beings and we spend our lives searching for something to complete us. There is nothing in this world that will ever come close to satisfying us. Money won't do it and neither will material possessions or relationships. Only a relationship with God our Father can fill us up and give us the peace we crave. He reaches out to fill our hearts, but we must extend our hearts to meet His. Let God pour Himself into your heart. It could be just the thing you've been looking for!

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Honesty time. Tell the group about a time when you, as Stuart said, "Pulled it together in the parking lot," leading everyone (or not leading everyone) to think you've got it all together when in reality things were a mess (agrued on your way to church, kid threw up in the car, etc.). Don't be afraid, we've ALL been there.
2. Why do you think people who are nothing like Jesus so attracted to Him? Why were they so attracted to him, yet not at all attracted to the religious leaders of their day?

EVALUATE IT

1. Stuart said, "But this is not JUST a place for people who have it all together. This is a place for people who have serious flaws, for people who have real-time character defects. And people who are messy." Why should FCC be like this? Why are churches perceived as places where people "have it all together"?
2. Read Matthew 5:1-5. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? Why are these people blessed?
3. Stuart stated, "None of the conditions listed in the Beatitudes are thought of by our world as tickets to the good life, and that's why Jesus mentions them." Why does Jesus mention the list of things our world would deem negative or lacking value?
4. Stuart challenged us to stop using the systems of evaluation the world uses. How do we do that? How do begin evaluating the world through the lenses of Jesus?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. In the Diving Conspiracy Dallas Willard writes, "If I, as a recovering sinner myself, accept Jesus' good news, I can go to the mass murderer and say, 'You can be blessed in the kingdom of the heavens. There is forgiveness that knows no limits.' [To the betrayer and the adulterer.] To the worshiper of Satan. To those who rob the aged and weak. To the cheat and the liar, the bloodsucker and the vengeful: Blessed! Blessed! Blessed! As they flee into the arms of the kingdom among us." What is your initial reaction to this (angry, defensive, joyful, etc.)? Why did you react that way?
2. What can you do to help FCC become a place that attracts people the way Jesus attracted people?



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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