



## **Kingdom of Blessing**

### **January 30, 2022**

#### **Reflect + Discuss**

- As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- Read Matthew 4:23-5:12. What stands out to you? What questions do you have?
- Re-read Matthew 4:23-25 and 5:1. Who is part of the audience when Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount? How does this context affect your understanding of his teaching?
- Of those who Jesus calls blessed in Matthew 5:3-12, which group surprises you the most? Which group(s) do you most identify with? Which group(s) did you least identify with?
- How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:3-12 affect the way you think about the type of person you'd like to become?
- Based on the sections of the Sermon on the Mount you've read above, what is the most appealing aspect of the Kingdom of Heaven for you? Which parts are harder to accept?

#### **Pray**

- Ask God for the willingness to be challenged in the coming weeks as we dig into Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. Pray that you would have eyes to see His vision for the world, and wisdom to know what changes you may need to make in order to embrace that vision.

#### **Next Steps**

- Set aside time in the next few days to read the entire Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). As you read, do your best to not read it as a demand on your life or something to feel guilty over. Instead, read it as a vision for a world filled with people who live as the sermon describes; as something meant to inspire you and invite you into the Kingdom. Jesus says this world he is describing is better than the world we live in. Here are some questions to consider as you read:
  - o What is attractive about this vision?
  - o Would you want to live in community with these kinds of people?
  - o Does this world sound better than the world we live in today?
  - o Is he describing the type of person you'd like to become?
  - o Ultimately, do you want this?