

## Applying God's Word

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**This Week's Passage:** Matthew 5:7-12

**Corresponding Sermon from King's Church:** "The Beatitudes, Part Two"

### Opening Discussion

1. Read this week's passage together.
2. Share *your* immediate observations from this text. Was there anything shared in Sunday's sermon that stuck out to *you*?
3. In what ways were you able to see *yourself* in the sermon and in the text?

### Going Deeper

1. The first half of the beatitudes have a vertical dimension that moves from our humble dependence on God's grace to a resulting desire for his invading righteousness in our lives. The second half begins to explain that righteousness with a call for **mercy**, a deep-seated compassion for those in need. How can we pursue this beatitude in our lives:
  - A. How can you be merciful toward those in need physically? (**Lk. 10:25-37**)
  - B. How can you be merciful toward those in need spiritually? (**Col. 3:12-13**).
2. Our grace-motivated hunger for righteousness also makes us **pure in heart**. Meaning, down to the core of who we are, we are singularly committed to the glory of God. Look together at **Psalm 24** and discuss how this helps understand what it means to be pure in heart.
  - A. What "false" things distract you from seeing God in his glory?

B. How do we understand the high call to be pure in heart in light of our continued sinfulness?

3. As God's sons and daughters who reflect the family likeness, we are to be **peacemakers** as our God himself is the God of peace. What does this look like practically? How does it flow from the previous beatitudes? Look together at **Romans 12:14-21**.

4. Jesus ends the beatitudes with a message prevalent throughout scripture. Those who pursue the **righteousness** of God will be **persecuted**. And Jesus calls us to **rejoice and be glad** in the midst of this persecution as we look forward to our **reward in heaven**.

A. Looking back through the beatitudes, what is the reward Jesus promises us?

B. How does this motivate us to faithful joy in the midst of persecution?

C. What might persecution look like for us today?

#### Prayer Points

1. Thank God for the blessing of Christ and that your eternal hope is in his grace, not your works.
2. Ask him to give you a desire to truly live the life of flourishing and blessing in obedience to Jesus.