

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 24, 2019

## Blessed and Distressed

Pastor Conway 8:15, 10:55 Pastor Johnson 9:30

### Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about in the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday, on Deep Water Discipleship?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Question: What bearing does personal faith have on the degrees of distress we experience when we experience disappointments in life?

### Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 5:1-11. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, <sup>19</sup> and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

<sup>20</sup> Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. <sup>24</sup> "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. <sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- How is Jesus activities in verses 17-19 offer an endorsement to his stated purpose earlier in Luke- the Spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach good news to the poor, to give recovery of sight to the blind and set the oppressed free?
- In this first teaching after the naming of the 12 apostles, why would Jesus choose to begin his teaching messages on the beatitudes? Why begin with “the kingdom of god” in verse 20?
- On what basis is Jesus able to offer promises of future blessings to the people in verse 21?
- What does the “Son of Man” reference in verse 22 reveal about Jesus’ beliefs about himself?
- How do the “woes” in verses 24-26 add to what had already been stated in 20-23?

### **Other Related Scriptures (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read out loud 1 timothy 6:17-19.
- How do these verses clarify a Christian view of wealth that was first presented negatively in the Luke passage?
- Do you agree on the approach of interpreting scripture in light of other scriptures? What considerations should be given in making sense of these two different scriptures about wealth at the same time?
- What other “kingdom of God” values come across in this passage?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- What do you ultimately hope for in life?
- On what do followers of Christ base their beliefs about life after death?
- How does viewing the present and the future/eternal change our frame of reference in assessing our situations?
- How does the promise of storing up treasures in heaven in both passages embolden you to courageous action and witness?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- “Blessed to be a blessing” communicates a kingdom value we share at Christ Church in our community focus from Jeremiah 29:7 “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which he has carried you... as it prospers you too will prosper.” What opportunities to bless the community in Christian witness do you foresee in the near future?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.