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Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Minister to Women
First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

July 25, 2017
Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Facilitator

Subject: The Recap of The Beatitudes and Summer Recess

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12

Matthew 5:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

The Beatitudes

He said:

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of

righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult
you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be
glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in
the same way they persecuted the prophets who
were before you.

Matthew 5:3-12 The Message (MSG)

You're Blessed

⁵ ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge
crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were
apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with
him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and
taught his climbing companions. This is what he
said:

³ “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

⁶ “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

¹⁰ “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Recap of the Beatitudes

Background:

In Matthew chapter 5 we see Jesus interacting with his disciples; Jesus illustrates to us how God's kingdom should be equipped through the beatitudes and how our spiritual character may be shaped. These passages are called The Beatitudes; which means blessed. We learned in the previous lessons that there is a divine response of blessing; which represents the reaction from God. We are reminded that The Beatitudes are a framework in which we can look at how God thinks of these people whom Jesus is talking about to his disciples. Greek philosophers described the word "blessed" to mean "happy"; they also associated it with wealth or good fortune considering God's provisions which extend His grace. (Strong's Concordance 3107 *makarios*: blessed, happy). Blessed also means fortunate, happier (NASB Translation). However, we continue to ask the question "What makes us blessed **from God's point of view**? What is *the divine expectation* around our response? How are we blessed by God considering our responses? When we consider the Spirit of God whom we invited to dwell within us, how does that impact our heart, will and behavior? How does it impact the way we approach God?"

The Teachings of Jesus Christ:

Complete the chart below with the missing characteristics and blessings.

Characteristics

- Poor in Spirit
- _____
- _____
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness

- Merciful
- _____
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for righteousness' sake

Blessings Received in Beatitudes

Receive _____

Will be comforted

Will inherit _____

Will be filled with God's _____

Will obtain _____

Shall see God

Are called _____

Received a great _____ in Heaven.

Questions for Review:

What is the meaning of Blessed? Do you consider what heaven's perspective when reading the Beatitudes?

What is the meaning and significance of being poor in spirit?

How are happiness and being blessed different?

What did Jesus mean when He used the word mourn?

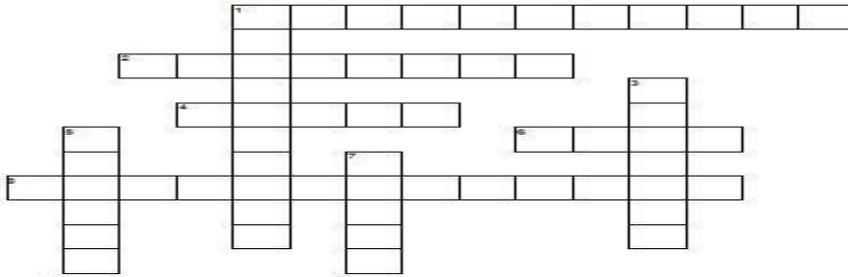
What does it mean to be meek? Is it a sign of weakness?

In what way can you seek peace in your life? With others?

How can you count it all joy when you face persecution or insults because of your faith? Note scriptures.

How do you spend time self-reflecting and meditating on God's word?

Beatitudes



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ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in _____: for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled

DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 _____ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted

While You are at Home:

1. Consider the characteristics listed in The Beatitudes and make notes on your personal characteristics. Do you see yourself in how Jesus lays out the blessings that follow those with certain character traits? Meditate on the scripture and pray about where God sees you and how you see yourself. Spend time doing self-reflection; be honest about the positive things as well as the areas in which personal growth is needed.

2. In looking back at the Beatitudes how might growing in one of the areas help you to be ready to face the challenges in life?

As you reflect on the studies, reread the scriptures, engage in other research (do word searches in your Concordance) and consider the areas of Spiritual Character in the Beatitudes and how we cultivate and enrich our spiritual fruit.

Announcements:

- **Women’s Bible Study will be on **recess** in **August 2017**.
- **Women are encouraged to review the Women’s Bible Study lessons on The Beatitudes and Fruit of the Spirit lessons that were taught in preparation for the fall.
- ** Women’s Bible Study will **resume** on **Tuesday, September 12th** at 6:30 p.m.
- ** Women’s night out in early September – **date and location TBA**. Invite another Sister, make it intergenerational.

Summer Recess Reading

Charisma Magazine

[4 Ways You Can Grow the Gift of Spiritual Discernment](#)

9:00AM EDT 7/26/2016 [JARED LASKEY](#)



In your home, make everything a place for God's presence. (iStock photo)

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (MEV) says, *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for the common good. To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But that one and very same Spirit works all these, dividing to each one individually as He wills."*

It is the wonderful Holy Spirit who gives these gifts to empower people to share God's grace. Each spiritual gift is for the "common good," which means that they are for the body of Christ. The chapters that follow this list in 1 Corinthians elaborate on how these spiritual gifts are used within the local body and how each gift is needed for us to grow as a church into Jesus.

Within this list is the "discerning of spirits," and this spiritual gift needs to be understood and practiced as well as the others in our day and age, as culture seems to be influencing and mixing within the church and sermons become more motivational rather than biblical. As a spiritual gift, it cannot be neglected but it can correctly used.

In the context of 1 Corinthians 12, the discerning of spirits is to distinguish what is trying to look like it is from God but is not. One needs to take into consideration that the Corinthians were a Spirit-filled church, but needed correcting in their practice of using spiritual gifts and that not every prophetic utterance or preacher or message in tongues originated in the Holy Spirit. Some people were competing for accolades and were operating in the flesh, while there were others demonically influenced. A process for discerning and judging prophecies and manifestations was needed, which is why Paul set protocols in place (1 Cor. 14:29).

The use of this gift is to be centered in God. Discernment is identified with the Holy Spirit, so it recognizes where He is moving and what He wants to do, flowing out of friendship with Him.

The purpose of this gift is to rightly distinguish the work of the Holy Spirit from other spirits. Being firmly grounded in Scripture, it leads people to be more intimate with the Savior of the world, glorifying Him, canceling evil that is trying to stop God's work or the interference of man's selfish agenda within the church. Discernment is part of making sure the Spirit of God has His way, and is an incredible privilege to be part of.

A discerner identifies the presence of God, but also identifies where His presence needs to manifest. When the discerner is well-versed in Scripture, the powers challenging God will be obvious to them, and they are present to be a conduit for God's power.

The discerning person is to be deeply rooted in Christ, loving Him so much that His love flows out of them toward others. The great "love" chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, is within the same context as this spiritual gifts list that includes "discerning spirits."

Here are four basic points you can apply in your life to grow in this spiritual gift:

1. Spend time with God every day. His presence needs to be cherished and valued, and the fruit of the Spirit is evident. Discerning spirits is to be exciting as one knows their identity in Jesus and operates in love from a position of knowing they are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6-7). Their posture is one of victory because of what Jesus won at the cross.
2. Read and study the Bible daily. Scripture is God's Word and needs to be read (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Being immersed daily in Scripture makes one more sensitive to the wonderful Holy Spirit. When a person knows the Spirit of truth, they quickly identify the source that is attacking and follow the biblical guidance and locally established procedures to ensure Jesus is glorified.
3. Make everything a place for God's presence. Be intentional in saturating your home and car with worship music, teachings, Scripture and interactions with others (Eph. 5:19-21). This keeps your heart pure as you seek the presence of God. Maintaining worship makes it possible to identify when something wrong tries to interfere and take focus off of God, but the discerning person knows how to continue praising and worshipping God to break the powers trying to interrupt.
4. Be an active member within a local church. Your gift will grow as you maintain relationship with your local church (Heb. 10:24-25). Discerning spirits benefits the local church, ensuring truth is upheld in its message and methods, and protecting the church from any people the enemy will try to use to malign the ministry. A discerner is actively engaged with ministry and knows the process set in place by the leaders, enhancing the move of God. 🕯️