

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

April 11th, 2010

Focus: To engage our need for mercy for both ourselves and for the world.

The Beatitudes *Blessed are the Merciful -Lesson 5*

Introduction: Regardless of age or gender we have all heard, and probably used, this phrase. THAT'S NOT FAIR! Of course as kids we screamed it, and as parents we simply stated the obvious...WELL, LIFE'S NOT FAIR.

- Discuss this phrase and why it is so commonly used.
- What is it we are really wanting?
- Do we really want what we deserve?
- Discuss the sense of entitlement we have in our culture.

Text: Matt. 5:7, Luke 15:11-31

- Read Matt. 5:7 and define what Jesus is suggesting as blessed.
- The beatitudes really are a ladder...you need to own the ones prior to receive the next. Share how one would need to become verses 3-6 in order to grasp verse 7.
- Read the Luke passage.
- Why can't the older brother offer mercy?
- Why can the father?
- Jesus quotes Hosea in both Matt. 9:13 and 12:7...discuss these texts in light of our conversation.

Application:

- Do we really want what we deserve?
- How might extending mercy change your life?
- Do you need mercy from someone, maybe yourself?
- Discuss the sense of entitlement we live with and its implications.

Prayer: End your evening with a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the mercy we receive and invite God to help us extend that mercy to the world.