

# (be) ATTITUDES

Luke 6.17-26

**OPENING PRAYER:** Open with prayer for any personal needs of your group.

**NOTE:** Our insights are important so remember to respect each other's thoughts/reflections.

**DISCUSSION:** The focus for our sermon on Sunday was how Jesus brought healing to people, and then explained that they are blessed as God is in the midst of life - even when they may not feel he is. God's presence therefore is the greater miracle which we can experience every day and all God asks of us is to be faithful, consistent and wise with offering him even the little we might have in life to give.

- What is the little area of your life you feel you offer God that you see (or want to see) multiplied to bring you closer to Jesus?

**READ:** Luke 6.27-49 (Discuss as many - or as few - of the following questions as you like)

Jesus now gives quite a direct speech to those who have received healing, experienced being delivered from demons and followed to hear his teachings. Many have signed up to be disciples and follow him.

- What attitudes/behaviours can you list that you feel Jesus feels should be seen in a disciple?
- What do you feel may have been the response in hearing this speech from Jesus?
- What is the reason Jesus has taken this moment to outline these things?
- Although the cost seem high, what verses show the benefits of living in this way for God?

## GOING DEEPER:

- Share with each other what areas you struggle with in living like this as a follower of Christ.
- **If you have extra time in group or at home:** Matthew 5 - 7 gives an extended account of Jesus message on the mount. Scan these chapters and see what topics are added.

## CLOSING PRAYERS:

- **CHURCH COMMUNITY:** pray we see a regular attendance of 100 people at worship on Sunday's and for our AGM this coming Sunday where we give thanks to God for those leaders stepping into PC
- **VISION 2021** – pray we see goals for our senior church members reached (Sunday transport, pastoral care for isolated people, social activities that bring church and wider community members together)
- **OTHER CHURCHES:** pray for Living Waters, Downpour, Axis, St Benedict's, NL Uniting, Church Unlmtd

**Lord God**

**Help us to set time apart for you in the week ahead.**

**In the everyday moments, let us be formed in the likeness of Christ.**

**As we learn the way of your love, help our lives bring glory to you.**

**Amen**

## Be ATTITUDES • Luke 6.17-16

Today we get a snap look at the beginning of Jesus sermon on the mount – the intro to the beatitudes - Who loves the sermon on the mount? Some do and some don't! **Tell me why...**

If you love it, it's because you haven't read *all of it* – it's extremely challenging

Today we'll touch briefly on how Jesus set the stage to bring this challenge of extreme love - next week we'll dig in to see *how we live out* a crazy version of extreme love

Today we heard how Jesus had come amongst a great multitude – people from everywhere are following him, they want to hear him and see him do a miracle – they've got a sign up sheet for new disciples

People are healed - restored to their families, demons are cast out, it's a crazy atmosphere– It's like a Hillsong conference but without the band, lights and smoke machines

What I love, in this instance, is Jesus came amongst people and *did first* - in VS 17-19

He then told them here is how *God is amongst you* in the “beatitudes” in VS 20-23 –

God is present with you – don't feel sorry for yourself – Maybe life makes it hard to see God – don't be dismayed - God's prophets struggled as well - embrace the presence of God now

Then his edge gets a little sharper in VS 24-26 as he points to those who are more focused on what they can get from God for personal gain – even those claiming to be God's prophets were guilty of this

So, why does Jesus point to the “prophets” – those of God and those who were not

Here's two points that stand out to me about God's miraculous work through the prophets:

- (a) there were both awe-inspiring and practical miracles - and –
- (b) these awe-inspiring or simple miracles could quickly be forgotten

This always seemed dependent upon two things

- (a) whether the person wanted to see God - and -
- (b) the state of their heart

I believe, Jesus knew - if the people only saw God in the miracle, the preaching, the smoke machine as a way to feel close to God, they would lose sight of God when disaster or challenges came their way - they need to see / feel the kingdom of God in day to day life

They needed to humbly allow God to delve into a deeper place of their souls

Over the years I have always led youth group or played on drums - and I often struggled – I faked it till I made it – this was grounded in a feeling of I'm not good enough

I *wanted* to see God – and I did – but the state of my heart kept sabotaging *how* I saw God

As you've heard many times from me – I love encouraging people to use their gifts

The reason is that, over the years - and especially in leading our church, I learnt that God didn't want more from me – he just wanted me to take the little he asked for – and be faithful, consistent and wise with offering it in service to him

Since then, I continue to see how God takes the little I offer and multiplies this for his glory

This is the basis I work on for leading our church - it's the basis for why I remind you that God looks at your offering as more than the sum of what you offer

God takes the small things – *if it is your sacrifice* – and exponentially increases this to bless you, others and his kingdom when you are willing to be faithful, consistent and wise with it

We've talked a lot this month about church members ministry – using our gifts for growing God's kingdom – as we have some amazing goals we want to achieve as a community

Just like the miracles, teaching and razzle dazzle 2000 years go – these will come and go – what remains however is much more powerful – the message of God's faithful people living as disciples of Christ using the little gifts, they have to glorify his kingdom

As NT Wright points out – all that it means to be fully engaged in the drama and miracle of life is found by looking at Jesus – *If you want to see God at work – then we have to be more than a spectator on the sidelines.*

God will take messy broken people - like you and me – who are overwhelmed by the enormity of what God asks from us – but are willing to place him at the centre of our lives – and let his crazy extreme ridiculous love work through us to bless others

Speaking of those bringing a crazy extreme ridiculous love, I want to invite some guys up now to talk about how God has called them to bring this to the youth of our Diocese

**Interview Liam - how do they see themselves in transforming the lives of those they serve – why do they do it – what do they hope to see – what have they experienced**

**Finish with a prayer for everyone and for the YA's**