

PREPARE HIM ROOM

At the Feet of Jesus

Matthew Study
Spring 2024

Digging deeper into
The Sermon on the Mount
The Great Commission

Prepare Him Room

At the Feet of Jesus

An eight-week study on the Sermon on the Mount and the Great Commission

APRIL 7 - WEEK 1

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ How to do a Word Study - Matthew 5:1-3
- ◆ *Personal Study:* Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-4
 - Poor in spirit
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APRIL 14 - WEEK 2

- ◆ The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-4
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 - Meek
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APRIL 21 - WEEK 3

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 - Hunger and thirst for righteousness
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APRIL 28 - WEEK 4

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 - Salt of the earth
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MAY 5 - WEEK 5

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MAY 12 - WEEK 6

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MAY 19 -WEEK 7

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MAY 26 -WEEK 8

- ◆ Reflection and Prayer

Scriptures are presented in the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

Matthew 5:1-16

The Sermon on the Mount

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14" You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

WEEK 1 - APRIL 7

Introduction

Welcome!

We are so excited that you chose to study God's Word and see for yourself what our Lord and Savior is communicating to you. We are commanded to study the Bible, God's Word, for many reasons. Read Joshua 1:8, and 2 Timothy 3:16 and list some of these reasons:

To help you in your journey:

- 1) Select a Bible version you can understand *
- 2) Read your Bible regularly
- 3) Invite the Holy Spirit's guidance

** Talk to your facilitators for input if need be for options.*

Digging Deeper in your Study of God's Word

As Children of God, we are expected to transition from drinking the milk of the Word to eating the meat of the Word.

In the next eight weeks, we want to guide you towards digging into God's Word on your own. We don't know the future. We don't know the path God has for each of us. There may come a time when you will be on your own and will need the riches of God's breathed Word to guide you, strengthen you, and give you hope. There are various ways to study the Bible and we have multiple resources available to us. We'll follow the method below and will focus on the steps highlighted in red. You don't have to use the steps in

the order presented, however, do the word searches and word studies first, then read commentaries. Do not do the opposite as it may influence your perspective and interpretation of the Scriptures. Commentaries can conflict with each other at times based on the writer's theological perspectives.

1. Observation

- a. Words/Phrases
- b. Paragraph/Thought/Message
- c. Emphasis on specific topics or Repetition
- d. Cause/Effects, Question/Answer, Comparison/Contrast
- e. Who? What? Where? When?

2. Interpretation

- a. Context/Background
- b. Cross-reference
- c. Culture/History
- d. Commentaries

3. Application

- a. How does this truth affect my relationship with God?
- b. How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
- c. How does this truth affect me?
- d. How does this truth affect my response to trials? Attacks from the enemy?
- e. How does this truth point to the cross?

The New Testament (NT) was written in Greek, therefore some English words might not explain clearly enough what was intended by the writer; they don't capture the richness of the Greek word. That's why we will look at the word's meaning in the original Greek language.

Looking at the word's meaning without paying attention to the context can be dangerous and can send us into rabbit trails. We must pay attention to the parties involved, the background, and most of all, the leading of the Holy Spirit. Knowing the Scriptures is desirable but it is God's Holy Spirit who will direct our steps and reveal to us the nuggets of truths the Father intends for us at that moment. (1 Corinthians 2:6-13)

Finally, as you meditate on the truths you learn, pray and ask Jesus to reveal to you how the passage studied applies to you.

Let's dig in!

How to do a Word Study

Read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

Let's look closely at Matthew 5:1-2

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Observation

The first step of observation is to look at the words and phrases in the text we are studying. (*A phrase is a series of words having a special meaning but not forming a complete sentence with subject, verb, etc.. Ex: opened his mouth.*) This will help us get a better understanding of the biblical concepts presented in the passage. Not all words need to be researched. Look for a promising word; one that may reveal important truths from God's treasure box. List a few here from Matthew 5:1-2:

Let's look up the word "disciples" using biblehub.com

How to do a word search ONLINE:

How to look up Matthew 5 on biblehub.com

- Go to biblehub.com
- Select "Strong's" from the 2nd menu bar (shaded in gray)
- Enter "Matthew 5" (mat 5) in the search box and press enter/return
- Matthew 5 will come up in blue lettering
- Click on the word "disciples" in verse 1
- The original Greek word and definitions will come up

Use these directions to do a word search in future lessons. Just replace the book, chapter and word/phrase you are looking for.

How to do a word search ON THE APP (cell phone):

How to look up Matthew 5 on the Bible Hub app

- Download the Bible Hub app in the App Store or Google Play
- Open the Bible Hub app
- Select "STR" from the 2nd menu bar (shaded in gray)
- Enter "Matthew 5" (mat 5) in the search box and press go
- Matthew 5 will come up in blue lettering
- Click on the word "disciples" in verse 1
- The original Greek word and definitions will come up

Use these directions to do a word search in future lessons. Just replace the book, chapter, and word/phrase you are looking for.

What's the Greek word for "disciples"? _____

What do you learn about "disciples"?

Bible Concordance

A Bible concordance lists in alphabetical order words used in the Bible and tells you in which other passages the word is used. Some Bibles contain a short concordance towards the end. You can find full Bible concordances online and on print. There are some available on Bible Hub as well as in the UBC library.

Englishman's Concordance

This concordance is a little different. It shows us where else in the Bible the same Greek word can be found. It is helpful to read those passages to better understand the meaning of the word/phrase we're investigating. Passages are listed in the order the books appear in the Bible.

On Bible Hub, let's scroll down (if on phone) or look to the right of the definitions (if on laptop) to find the "Englishman's Concordance".

Looking towards the end of the "Englishman's Concordance", we learn that there are 366 occurrences where the word *mathétés* is used in the New Testament. Let's look up two of them.

Read Matthew 8:21 (context: 8:18-22). What do you learn about disciples?

What do you learn about disciples in Matthew 9:10-11 (context: 9:9-13)?

Another step in observing God's Word is to answer the following questions: Who? What? Where? When?

Interpretation

Context / Background

What can you tell of the context or background of Matthew 5:1-2? It's often useful to go back to the previous passage or chapter for more insight. Read Matthew 4:18-25.

Bible Commentaries

Bible commentaries are explanations and interpretations of Scripture usually by a Bible scholar. Most study Bibles contain notes explaining words, passages, and giving additional information on the writer, context, history, etc. You can find Bible commentaries online and in print. Bible Hub contains commentaries by various authors as does the UBC library. Be mindful to select reputable authors and websites. When studying God's Word, resist the temptation to read commentaries from the start. Do the word searches and word studies first as you lean on the Holy Spirit for understanding, then read the commentaries.

Looking at Bible commentaries, what do you learn about "disciples"?

Application

Ask Jesus to reveal to you how the passage studied applies to you. How does it affect your relationship with God? With others? How does this truth point to the cross?

Group Exercise

Each group/table will do a word search on Matthew 5:3 (blessed, are the poor, is the kingdom) and will share their findings. Review your notes on using Bible Hub, if needed.

Scroll down to the Englishman's Concordance which gives a list of all places the word "poor" is used in Scriptures. Read the 2nd verse (Mat 11:5).

What do you learn about "poor"? Read verse in context for more clues.

Personal Study

This week, you will continue studying Matthew 5:3 and will dive into Matthew 5:4 which are the first two verses of the Beatitudes. The personal study is separated into 3 days and contains a going deeper section with suggestions for those wanting to go deeper or having more time available.

Remember the things we have learned in the Genesis study and since we started *Prepare Him Room* last fall. Continue to apply them to this study.

- Invite the Holy Spirit into your study and meditation times
- Read/listen to this week's Bible passage regularly
- Ask God to reveal what He wants you learn/see as you study His Word

- Meditate/marinate on this week's Bible passage
- Ask Jesus what this passage has to do with you
- Journal your thoughts and/or discoveries that are meaningful to you
- Connect (call/text) with someone from this class and share findings, struggles, prayer requests, etc.

Week 1 - Personal Study

The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-4

Day 1:

Pray the Lord directs your focus where He'd like it to be as you read the following passage and reveals what He wants to communicate to you through this passage today.

Read through the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12 twice. The first time let it wash over you. The second time, ask the Lord to show you where to focus.

After reading it again, journal what comes to mind as you read it. Journal questions you have. Hold questions lightly and leave space for the Lord to answer in class or over this study. Bring questions to our class time to share with the community for feedback.

Day 2:

Ask the Lord to silence the noises of the day as you sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from Him. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal what He planned for you in your prayer/study time and how to apply what you learn to your life.

In class we did a word search to find the meaning of the words in the Greek language, the language the original text was written in, for Matthew 5:3.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed: happy, to be envied – describes a believer in enviable (fortunate) position from receiving God’s provisions

are the poor: extreme opposite of rich – pauper
financial + resource poor lends itself to dependence

is the kingdom: royal power, kingship, sovereignty, authority, rule, especially of God, both in the world, and in the hearts of men; hence: kingdom, in the concrete sense. *Kingdom*; the realm in which a king sovereignly rules. A *kingdom* always requires a *king* – as the kingdom of God does with *King Jesus*.

of heaven: heaven, (a) the visible heavens: the atmosphere, the sky, the starry heavens, (b) the spiritual heavens. (Based on context, the verse suggests the (b) definition.

Possible re-wording of this verse from the Greek definitions:

To be envied are the beggarly, spiritually poor, completely lacking resources in spirit for theirs is the royal power of heaven.

What strikes you after reading the Greek definitions and the verse using the definitions?

How did these word/phrase searches expand your understanding of this verse?

Let's dig into "poor in spirit"...

It is good to do word searches to better understand a verse. Although, more digging is needed. Reading the verse in context is critical. Also, taking those words you searched and seeing where it is used in other parts of scripture also helps clarify meaning.

This same Greek word "poor" is used in Luke 4:18 where Jesus is speaking about His fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah's prophecy as He is reading from the Torah (Old Testament)

Read Luke 4:17-21

What do we learn about the context of **poor** here?

How does this clarify your understanding of "poor" in Matthew 5:3?

Let's flesh out what poor in spirit looks like as Paul struggles with a thorn in his flesh that he asks the Lord three times to remove, but He doesn't.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-11

What comes up for you as you read this passage in light of Matthew 5:3?

Share with the Lord what comes up. Journal about it. Write any questions that come up.

Ask yourself if there is anything that stops you from fully embracing a poor spirit. Journal a letter to God about what comes up.

If you feel any conflict in your spirit about embracing this, invite the Lord to work in this area. This is not time for what you know to be true in your mind, but rather being transparent with the Lord about what comes up in your heart. Does it feel abrasive? Does it rub you wrong? Does it bring peace or not? This could be an opportunity to pray for the Lord to work in you if need be. These beatitudes are a Believer's identity in Christ and He is continually refining us for them to be true at a heart level in our lives.

Day 3:

Thank our Heavenly Father for this time He's providing to dig into His Word and ask for guidance as you seek to learn from Jesus today. Invite the Holy Spirit into your study and prayer time.

Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Let's look up "who mourn" in the original Greek to get a better understanding of what it means in this verse. (It would be helpful to reread the definition from Day 1 of "blessed" as well.)

How to do a word search online:

How to look up Matthew 5 on biblehub.com

- Go to biblehub.com
- Select "Strong's" from the 2nd menu bar (shaded in gray)
- Enter "Matthew 5" (mat 5) in the search box and press enter/return
- Matthew 5 will come up in blue lettering
- Click on the word mourn in verse 4
- The original Greek word and definitions will come up

(Use these directions to do a word search in future lessons. Just replace the book and chapter you are looking for.)

Email Laura Bradley at hotzlaura@gmail.com if this is a challenge for you or if you need clarifications.

What definitions did you find?

What does this suggest to you the meaning of "mourn" in this verse?

Now to flesh out the meaning of mourn, let's scroll down (if on phone) or look to the right of the definition (if on laptop) and find "Englishman's Concordance". Here is a list of other Bible passages where we can find other instances of "mourn". We'll do a word study to better understand it.

Read the following verses in context and write what you learn about mourning.

Matthew 9:15 (context: 9:10-15)

Why is there no need for mourning in this situation?

Mark 16:10 (context: 16:9-10)

Why were Jesus' disciples mourning?

1 Corinthians 5:2 (context: 5:1-2)

Who is Paul suggesting should have gone into mourning? What is he suggesting that certain people mourn over?

2 Corinthians 12:21 (context: 12:20-21)

Paul is speaking to the Corinthians. Why is Paul concerned he may have to mourn when he visits them? Over what?

James 4:8-10

What is the cause for mourning?

Did you notice the two different meanings for "mourn" in the above passages? How do they differ and what do you glean from it?

Now, reread Matthew 5:1-12 paying close attention to verse 4. What type of mourning do you think Jesus was referring to? Don't read commentaries (yet). Commentaries can conflict on this interpretation of mourn. Just use the context to find clues. What strikes you?

It may be interesting to come back to this question after we complete this study. Digging into the original Greek language of the Beatitudes will reveal more as we go.

Going Deeper:

- Memorize Matthew 5:3-4
- Do a word search on "comforted" in verse 4
- Try re-wording Matthew 5:4 from the Greek definitions
- Find Bible commentaries for Matthew 5:3-4. What new information helped you better understand this passage?
- Which truth from this passage spoke to your heart the most? Why?
- Read the parallel passage in Luke 6:20-21. How does it differ?
- How does this passage point to the cross?
- How would you explain this passage to a new believer?

Week 2 - Personal Study

Beatitudes - Matthew 5:5, 7-8

Day 1:

Take a few moments to calm your mind and heart as you prepare to study this week's Scripture passage. Take deep breaths in and out thanking the One who breathed the breath of life into your body. Ask your Heavenly Father to send His Spirit to guide you and to reveal His truths to you today.

Read/Listen to the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) twice. The first time let it wash over you. The second time, pay special attention to verses 5, 7, and 8. (We will study verse 6 next week.)

Read Matthew 5:5, 7-8 again and write below what comes to mind as you do: questions, images, songs, poems, verses, etc. (use additional paper if needed). Hold questions lightly and leave space for the Lord to answer in class or over this study. Share your thoughts if you are comfortable.

Look up "meek" in the original Greek to get a better understanding of what it means in this verse. Review how to do a word search in last week's lesson if needed.

What is the Greek word for meek? _____

What definitions did you find?

What do these definitions suggest the meaning of "meek" is in this verse?

Go to the Englishman's Concordance to see the other places where "meek" is used in Scriptures.

Read the following verses in context and write what you learn about "meek" and who it is referring to.

Matthew 11:29 (context: Mat 11:28-29)

Matthew 21:5 (context: Mat 21:1-5)

Using the Greek definitions we found of “meek”, we can possibly re-word these two verses as:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; I *exercise power without undue harshness* and am lowly in heart...

Your King is coming to you, *not in weakness, but exercising God’s strength under His control*, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt...

Reread these two statements one at a time. Let these truths wash over you. What is Jesus communicating to you?

If waiting a day or two before completing Day 2, try reading this week’s passage and meditate on how Jesus exhibits meekness in Matthew 5:5.

Day 2:

Start your time in the Word with prayer. Ask the Lord to help you focus your mind on Him and the passage you will study and to reveal to you what He wants you to see today.

Reread Matthew 5:5

In 1 Corinthians 4:21, the apostle Paul asks members of the Corinthian church how they want him to deal with their arrogance, “with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness”.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:21 (context: 1 Cor 4:9-21)

Look up the Greek meaning of "gentleness" in 1 Corinthians 4:21 (Bible Hub).

What is the Greek word for gentleness? _____

Read the definitions. Read the 2nd definition under *Word-studies* again, slowly, letting it penetrate your mind and your heart.

Who is the source of the believer's "gentle-force"? _____

What is the requirement for believers to display biblical meekness?

Jesus modeled biblical meekness for us. It is one of the nine fruits the Holy Spirit works in a Christian's life. How can you, a follower of Christ, display biblical meekness (*gentleness, not in weakness but exercising God's strength under His control, exercising power without undue harshness*) in your daily life and in interactions with others? Go to the Lord for guidance and ask Him to clearly show you how He wants you to display meekness this week.

If you feel the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart, take time to listen. If showing meekness is an area you need to confess, tell your Heavenly Father and ask for forgiveness. Remember, the Holy Spirit will not accuse you and pressure you with guilt; Jesus already paid for our sins. If pertaining to you, you may want to journal your thoughts and feelings and ask the Lord to work in your life to learn how to exercise meekness.

Matthew 5:7

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Look up “merciful” in the original Greek and write the definitions you found.

Look up the meaning of “compassionate” in a dictionary.

Going to the Englishman’s Concordance, we see only one more instance of “merciful”. Read Hebrews 2:17 (context: Heb 2:16-18).

Jesus had to become like his brothers in EVERY way SO He might BECOME a **merciful** and faithful high priest in the service of God to make propitiation (forgive, pardon, to have mercy on, show favor to) for the sins of the people BECAUSE He himself has suffered when tempted. He is able to HELP (come to the rescue of) those who are being tempted.

How is Jesus role modeling being merciful? What does this suggest for us?

Read Matthew 18:33 (context: Mat 23-35). How does this relate to Hebrews 2:17?

How does it relate to Matthew 5:7?

Journal what you learned from the passages above about being merciful and compassionate. What resonates with you? Share your thoughts and feelings with the Lord. Ask Him to show you how to apply what you learned to your life.

Day 3:

Invite the Lord into your study time today. Give to Him any worry, doubt, or fear, you may be experiencing. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and to reveal to you any unconfessed sin or preoccupation hindering you from hearing Him clearly, and ask for His forgiveness.

Let's dig some more into Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Look up "shall receive mercy" in the original Greek and write the definitions you find.

Looking at the Englishman's Concordance, we find six other verses in the Book of Matthew where "shall receive mercy" appears. Except for Matthew 18:33, what do you notice about the people coming to Jesus?

Matthew 9:27 (context: Mat 9:27-31)

Matthew 15:22 (context: Mat 15:21-28)

Matthew 17:15 (context: Mat 14-18)

Matthew 20:30-31 (context: Mat 20:29-33)

In light of what you read in the passages above, how do you clarify the result of showing mercy "shall receive mercy" from Matthew 5:7?

On Day 2, we read in Matthew 18:33, the story of a man who is forgiven his debts, but instead of forgiving the debt somebody had against him, he brought him to court. Jesus said the man did not forgive the other who owed him like he himself was forgiven. Jesus added, "shouldn't you have shown mercy on your fellow servant like I had on you?" So the man was delivered to the jailers until he could pay his debt. Jesus said, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother **from your heart.**"

What does this say about how the Lord shows mercy and how He doesn't?
What does it say about our role in offering the mercy we receive from the Lord?

Let's look into Matthew 5:8 now

Look up "pure" in the original Greek and write the definitions you find.

Now look up "shall see"

Note how the same Greek word as "pure" (*katharos*) is used as "clean" in the following verses. What are these verses talking about? What do you learn about "pure" from these verses?

Matthew 23:26 (context: Mat 23:25-26)

Luke 11:41 (context: Lk 11:37-53)

John 13:8 (Jn 13:6-11)

What do you learn about this quality of a "pure" heart in Matthew 5:7 from the above verses? What does this mean about how the Lord calls my heart to be? Have I allowed the Lord into my heart to "wash it clean"? Ever? Lately? Journal what comes up for you as if you are writing a letter to the Lord.

Invite the Lord into your heart. What if your heart feels like a messy place? We need Him in the mess. He is the one who makes it pure through forgiveness. Purity of heart is a byproduct of forgiveness, that only Jesus can give and produce. Our part is confession. Ask the Lord to search your heart and ask if there is anything you need to confess as sin before Him. Be free to confess it and let the Lord exercise His freedom to “wash you” clean.

Going Deeper:

- Memorize Matthew 5:5-8
- Do a word search on “shall inherit the earth” in verse 5
- Study “meek” in 1 Peter 3:4 to see how it applies to wives (context: 1 Pet 3:3-6)
- Read on the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 (context: Gal 5:16:26)
- Jesus’ title “Son of David”: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-son-of-David.html>
- Try re-wording Matthew 5:8 from the Greek definitions
- Find Bible commentaries for Matthew 5:5, 7-8. What new information helped you better understand this passage?

Week 3 - Personal Study

The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:6, 9-12

Day 1:

Be glad and rejoice in this day the Lord has given us. Take time to reflect on the things you can enjoy because of Christ. Thank Him for His love, His sacrifices on our behalf, and His promise to never give up on us (no matter what). Invite the Holy Spirit's guidance into your study time.

Read Matthew 5:1-12

Read this passage a second time, bringing your attention to verse 6. In the context of the Beatitudes (verses 1-12), what comes up for you when you read verse 6?

Both food and water are basic needs for survival. Without either of these necessities we would certainly die. Hunger and thirst alert us to know we need both. Both "hunger and thirst" in the original Greek suggest desiring this righteousness mentioned **earnestly**.

What exactly is righteousness? Look it up from your Greek definition source and write what you learn/find.

You may have noticed when you do word searches in the original Greek that often multiple English words mean one Greek word. This is the case with “for they shall be satisfied”. Look up this phrase. What do you learn about the result of hungering and thirsting for righteousness?

Later this week, we will come back to this as we read and dive into Matthew 5:10-12. For right now, spend some time talking to the Lord about this in your life. Here are some questions you can use to start your time with Him.

- Am I hungering and thirsting after your righteousness?
- What am I hungering and thirsting after?
- Am I satisfied?
- What do I need to let go of in order to hunger and thirst after your righteousness?
- Is there anything I need to confess that gets in the way of me hungering and thirsting after your righteousness?
- If anything comes up, confess it to the One who is ready to forgive...

Day 2

Before jumping into today's study, ask the Lord to bless your time with Him and in His Word. Ask Him to reveal to you as you go along what He wants you to learn. If time permits, listen to worship music and focus on the One who put a new song in our mouth.

Today we will spend time in verse 9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

We learned the word "blessed" means enviable. "Peacemakers" are only referenced once in all of Scripture and that is here. So, who are these enviable peacemakers called sons of God, children of the creator and sustainer of all? Am I one of them?

Look up the word "son" and write what you learn about who this person is.

Now let's dig into what characterizes a peacemaker together...

Do a word search for "are the peacemakers". You will find two words that make up this word: peace (*eirene*) and maker (*poieo*). If you are using Bible Hub, you can scroll down in your definition to "NAS Exhaustive Concordance". You will find the two words in Greek. Click on these words to get their definitions and write what each means. What does this suggest about who these peacemakers were?

In order to flesh out the meaning of this "peace", we will do a word study and discover where this same "eirene" is found in the New Testament. Eirene is used 92 times in the New Testament. Let's explore a few instances.

What do you learn about peace in John 16:33? What is the source of this peace?

Read John 14:27 (context: Jn 14:18-31)

Where is this peace from? What does the Lord warn about our hearts?

Read Luke 1:79 (context: Lk 1:76-79)

John the Baptist's Dad, Zechariah, is prophesying through the Holy Spirit about John, as his infant son. What does verse 77 communicate about the "WAY of peace"?

Now read Luke 2:29 (context: Lk 2:21-32)

What has Simeon seen that is allowing him to depart in peace (verses 30-31)?

What is the cause for Simeon's peace?

How does this apply to my life today in regard to my source of peace?

Read Luke 10:5-6 (context: Luke 10:1-6)

Is this peace received by all?

Who receives this peace?

What is Jesus saying one should do if peace is offered and not received?

How does this apply to my life?

After reading through these passages what do we learn about this peace?

Day 3

Take a few deep breaths to calm your heart and mind as you sit at Jesus' feet. Share what's on your heart and ask Him to reveal anything that may hinder your time with Him and in the Word today.

On day 1, we learned what it means to hunger and thirst after God's righteousness and the byproduct of being satisfied. Today, we are going to explore Matthew 5:10-12 and discover another "blessed" or enviable potential byproduct of hungering and thirsting after God's righteousness. These byproducts do not appear enviable by our human standards. Most do not want to be in situations where we are persecuted and reviled. Lets dig into these verses and find the treasures for those whose home is the "kingdom of heaven".

Read Matthew 5:1-12

Now read Matthew 5:10-12. What strikes you about these verses? What feelings come up? Be honest with yourself. Defensiveness? Peace? Ambivalence? Confusion?

Look up the Greek phrase/definition of "who have been persecuted" in verse 10. What does this phrase mean? How does this affect your reading of these verses?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16. What are the parallels you see with Matthew 5:10-11?

In 1 Peter 4:14, what is the byproduct of being insulted for Christ? What rests upon you?

Let's look at a situation where Jesus' followers rejoiced for having suffered for righteousness' sake. Read Acts 5:41 (context: Acts 5:12-42).

Look up the word "beat" (or flogged in some versions) in verse 40 and write what you find.

The apostles have just been beaten. Their response was to "rejoice". "Rejoicing" in verse 41 means literally "to experience God's grace" and be "conscious of God's grace". Conversely verse 41 says these disciples suffered "shame" by man for Jesus' name. This word "shame" in the original Greek means "to be treated disgracefully".

What do you learn about the implications of God's grace versus man's grace from this situation?

In verse 41, "they were counted worthy" to suffer this shame. What do you learn about "they were counted worthy" from your word search?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:10 (context: 2 Cor 12:7-10)

Look up the words "I am well content". What does it mean?

Sit with verses 9 and 10. Look up words in Greek that you'd like to understand more deeply. Journal what you find. What do you learn about the byproduct of being persecuted for Christ?

Take some time. Journal what you learn from the passages above about being persecuted for righteousness sake. What do we learn about the heart attitude of a member of the Kingdom of heaven? What resonates with you? Where does this repulse you? What comes up for you? What makes sense? What doesn't make sense? Take some time and journal a letter to the Lord about your thoughts and feelings. Ask Him to show you over the next few days what He wants you to learn, change or grow from these passages. Come back and journal if anything comes up for you.

Going Deeper:

- Memorize Matthew 5:6, 9-12
- Summarize this passage in your own words or try re-wording it from the Greek definitions you found
- Which truth from this passage spoke to your heart the most? Why?
- How does this passage point to the cross?
- Read/Listen to Bible commentaries for Matthew 5:6, 9-12. What new information helped you better understand this passage?