**Small Group Sermon Questions**

 **Sunday, May 5, 2019**

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***Part One: Backward Blessings***

***Opening question***

1. Share some of the blessings in your life.
2. Share a time where you did a lot of growing in your life. Was it based on what we normally call a blessing?

***Going Deeper Questions***

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12. Picture yourself sitting on the side of that hill listening with the crowd. Which of Jesus’ words jumps out at you? Why?
2. Do all these blessings seem like blessings? What’s going on?
3. Jesus often talked about how the Kingdom has come near. How are the Beatitudes a picture of the Kingdom come?
4. How has the Kingdom shown up for you in a time of mourning or a time you were poor in Spirit? How has it lead you to hunger and thirst?
5. How does the ‘Kingdom come’conflict with the cultural story of success? What are the cultural beatitudes? (Blessed are… fill in the blanks)
6. Some scholars describe the culture of that day as based on shame and honour. And when things are going badly it often involves feelings of being dishonoured. Read the Beatitudes again outloud only replace the word blessed with the word honoured. How does this change the feel of the passage? Read Luke 15:20-22. How does this story illustrate Jesus’ point of being honoured?
7. Read Isaiah 61:1-7. How does it fit with Matthew 5:1-12?
8. Read I Corinthians 1:26-30. How does this passage fit with Matthew 5:1-12?
9. Frederick Beuchner wrote about the Beatitudes painting a picture of how the ‘poor in Spirit’ are blessed and how it’s not a description of spiritual heroes. How it is about the meek maybe being the strong ones? Does this bring you comfort or frustration? Why?
10. If we read the Beatitudes we see that it is scandously inclusive. Jesus had table fellowship with prostitutes and tax collectors. How should this change church culture?
11. At the end of the message Sid summarized it by simply saying God adores you and He comes to where you are out of love. Do you feel adored? Should you?