



November 3 Steve Cuss

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 5: 3-10

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

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5: 13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This week we talked about the church value of 'serve others.' When have you served someone and it did not go well? How about a time when it was amazing?
2. Read through Matt 5:3-16. Steve is suggesting that the 'blessed are' section and the 'salt and light' section are not two different ideas, but rather one idea. That those who are meek, poor in spirit, etc. are those God recruits for his Kingdom service. What do you think of that idea?
3. Do you find yourself particularly in any of the beatitudes today?
4. Steve also suggested that we keep 'othering until the other becomes us.' We live in a divisive culture. When have you experienced 'the other' as an 'us.' Where can we do better?
5. Steve also mentioned his friend Jack who is a Narrative Therapist whose job is to be curious, never posture himself as an expert, always take a 'step down learning' position with a client. How do you see this translating when we serve as a church or go on a mission trip?
6. If you have served one of our local or global partners, tell us about what you did and or learned.
7. Steve shared our church values of dignity, reciprocity, solidarity. What is your reaction to these words?

QUOTE:

Celsus was a skeptic in the 3rd C AD. He said, "When most teachers go forth to teach, they cry, "come to me, who are clean and worthy," and they are followed by the highest caliber of people available. But your silly master cries, "come to me you who are down and beaten by life" and so he accumulates around himself the rag, tag and bobtail of humanity."

Origen replies "The poor are said to be the rag, tag and bobtail of humanity. But Jesus does not leave them that way. Out of material you would have thrown away as useless he fashions people of strength, giving them back their self respect, enabling them to stand on their feet and look God in the eye. They were cowed, cringing, broken things. But the Son has set them free!"