



Sermon: *Can we be "Sorta Christian"?*

Text: *Matthew 5: 6-9*

Preacher: *Evan Marbury*

Sermon question - Is it possible for us to be "Sorta Christian"?

Introductory questions - Evan talked about how we should read and interpret the beatitudes, specifically using the illustration of a sheet of glass. If you throw a rock at a sheet of glass, not just one part of that glass is damaged, the whole sheet shatters. In the same way, if you fail at one part of the law, you have broken the whole law of God. Conversely, when we read the beatitudes, we cannot single out one beatitude and say, "This is the most important." Each beatitude builds on each other, it's the whole or nothing at all.

1. Reading Matthew 5:1-12, how do the beatitudes build on one another? How do the beatitudes portray or describe the new person that God is creating in Jesus? Consider specifically the linear progression of the beatitudes.

Reflection questions -

1. Jesus says that the merciful will be shown mercy (v.7). Why do you think our treatment of others will affect God's treatment of us?
2. Read Jonah 3.1-4.11. God's mercy can be irritating to those who prefer vengeance. Jonah fled when God called him to preach repentance to Nineveh. Why was Jonah angry with God (4.1-3)? What did God said about Nineveh (4.10-11)?
3. Why would the promise of seeing God (v.8) be reserved for those who are pure in heart?
4. Read Psalm 24. For whom do you find a beatitude, that is, a blessing, in this psalm?
5. Why would the world look down on the kind of people described in the Beatitudes?
6. How have the Beatitudes challenged you to be different?
7. Why would the promise of seeing God (v. 8) be reserved for those who are pure in heart?
8. Read Psalm 24. For whom do you find a beatitude, that is, a blessing, in this psalm?
9. How can we be peacemakers (v.9) in our homes, in our churches and in our society?
10. How would the world react to the kind of people described in the Beatitudes?
11. How have the Beatitudes challenged you?