



Leader

3/2 - Matthew 5:10-12

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read through 5:1-11. Who would be willing to recite these from memory for us? Or can we do piece it together as a group?
[Dialogue]
3. Jesus lays out these beatitudes in a way that build upon one another. According to Jesus, if a believer is faithful to the first seven beatitudes, what is sure follow? To what measure?
To the measure one is faithful to the first seven beatitudes, persecution is sure to follow in the same manner. Those who pursue God whole-heartedly will stand in stark contrast to faithlessness.
4. What does faithlessness look like? How does Jesus view faithlessness? Any passages come to mind?
Faithlessness looks like the world. It loves worldly music and worldly entertainment. The faithless are okay and comfortable around sin and environments that breed sin. They laugh along as others mock God and His standards. The faithless continue to fall more in love with the world and its decaying standards. The faithless, at their core, are ashamed of God. Luke 9:26 says, "For whoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."
6. Let's read Psalm 1 together. How do these two passages support one another? What is the Psalmist's remedy for standing in contrast to the world?
[Dialogue]
7. What forms of persecution do we see in America currently for Christian beliefs? Have you experienced any of this?
Physical persecution is on the rise, verbal insults, false accusations, and most commonly social ostracism.
8. What should our response be to these types of persecution? Should we retreat and hide?
We should not feel a desire to retreat and hide. Rather, we should feel a deep sense of joy that the Lord has allowed us to see clearly what is right and true and we should yearn to help other see the same.

9. What is your trajectory in life? Are you building an affinity for this world or is more persecution on the horizon for you?

[Dialogue]

10. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- John MacArthur Commentary - Matthew