



Community Group Discussion

The following questions pertain to teaching at Hillside Church on Sunday September 19, 2011

Title: *"I want to be happy"*

Text: Matthew 5:1-12 (*special focus on v.3*)

1. What would you say was the happiest moment(s) in your life? Why?
2. How much do you think people in our society think about what makes them happy?
3. Jesus teaching about happiness runs counter to how our culture tends to think. He pointed people to deep happiness coming through reconnected relationship with God. How has being a follower of Jesus impacted your sense of personal wellbeing and happiness in life?
4. The first of Jesus statements about happiness suggested it starts with being "poor in spirit." What does that mean for you?
5. What are examples you have encountered of the opposite of being "poor in spirit"?
6. Imagine you're talking with someone who doesn't have any Christian experience. How would you explain what is meant by the term "kingdom of heaven"?
7. In Luke 18:9-14 Jesus told a story about two people who approached God with different self-perspectives. What do you take from this story personally? What does it say to a culture that has lots of resources and a sense of personal entitlement?
8. What will you do differently this coming week in response to considering this passage(s) of Scripture?