

APRIL 21, 2024

"Divine Illogic"

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12

Divine Illogic



4th Sunday of Easter

AUTHOR

Matthew (Levi), a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. Matthew wrote especially to the Jews and the purpose of this gospel was to present clear evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior. It was written approximately A.D. 60-65.

CONTEXT

Jesus had traveled throughout Galilee, teaching and healing, and everywhere he went large crowds followed him. Matthew 5-7 is called the Sermon on the Mount which probably covered several days of preaching. At the beginning of the sermon are the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), which describe the traits we should have as followers of Jesus. Jesus said God blesses those who live out these traits and Jesus himself is the best example of them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 5:3-12. In verse 3 what do you think Jesus means by the poor in spirit. What is their reward? We need to depend on God alone. Read James 4:7-10. How can you become closer to God?
2. In verse 4 what happens to those who mourn? Read 2 Corinthians 1:4. When we are comforted, what might we do?
3. In verse 5, who are the meek? What will be their reward?

4. Verse 6 talks about hunger and thirst (or desire) for righteousness and also justice. Not only do we desire to do God's will but also that justice may be done everywhere. In 2 Peter 3:13 what has God promised? How do we become righteous according to Philippians 3:9?
5. In verse 7 we read about mercy. Mercy includes both forgiveness for the guilty and compassion for the suffering and needy. Mercy is a common theme in Matthew. Read Psalm 41:1-3, a prayer for God's mercy. What does the Lord do for those who are merciful?
6. Verse 8 says the pure in heart shall see God. What does Psalm 24:3-5 say about the pure in heart?
7. Verse 9 talks about the peacemakers. Read Romans 12:9-21. What can you glean about living a life as a peacemaker?
8. Read verses 10-12. What do they say about persecution? What awaits those who are persecuted?
9. As we reflect on the Beatitudes and look at our own lives, do our attitudes reflect the world's or Jesus' ?
10. How might you incorporate these traits in your life?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus is the best example of how to live our lives. Be encouraged that he is with us always.