



## Re-Forming Our Values (Matthew 5:1-12) Re-Formed: Sermon on the Mount pt. 1 Pastor Tim Peck

### THE BIG IDEA

Following Jesus as his disciples requires us to be *re-formed* in what we admire, what we desire, and what we expect because those who are least likely are often closest to God's Kingdom, our desires point us to Jesus, and following Jesus comes with a cost.

### OPENING

- Dallas Willard used to say, *"Everyone receives spiritual formation, just as everyone gets an education. The only question is whether it is a good one or a bad one."*<sup>1</sup> What are some ways some people receive a "bad spiritual formation" today?
- What comes to your mind when you hear the word "discipleship"?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- There are two groups mentioned in Matthew 5:1 who hear the Sermon on the Mount? The "crowds" represent "seekers" who are drawn to Jesus but have *not yet* decided to trust and follow Jesus. The people in the crowd were drawn to Jesus, but they came to Jesus with their own agenda for what they wanted Jesus to do for them. The "disciples" are men and women who have come out of the crowd to trust and follow Jesus. They have set aside their agenda to pursue Jesus' agenda. According to Pastor Tim, many people who go to church today are more like the crowd than the disciples. What do you think of this idea? What does this imply for churches today?
- Read Isaiah 61:1-4 and Psalm 37:11. How do these passages shed light on the first four beatitudes in Matthew 5:2-5? How does Jesus appeal Isaiah 61 in Luke 4:18-20?
- In his classic book *The Divine Conspiracy*, author Dallas Willard says, *"The Beatitudes, in particular, are not teachings on how to be blessed. They are not instructions to do anything. They do not indicate conditions that are especially*

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<sup>1</sup>Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship* (HarperCollins, 2006), p.



*pleasing to God or good for human beings. No one is actually being told that they are better off for being poor, for mourning, for being persecuted, and so on, or that the conditions listed are recommended ways to well-being before God...They are explanations and illustrations, drawn from the immediate setting, of the present availability of the kingdom through personal relationship to Jesus. They single out cases that provide proof that, in him, the rule of God from the heavens truly is available in life circumstances that are beyond all human hope.*<sup>2</sup> How is this different than how you heard the Beatitudes taught about in the past?

- Read Mark 8:34. What is required to be a disciple of Jesus in this verse? According to Matthew 5:11-12 what might this lead to?
- In his *Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer writes, “*Cheap grace is the mortal enemy of our church...Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance; it is baptism without the discipline of community; it is the Lord’s Supper without confession of sin; it is absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship.*”<sup>3</sup> Do you agree that cheap grace is the mortal enemy of the church? What is the danger of “grace without discipleship” today?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- As you think about your own discipleship, which of values mentioned in the Beatitudes need to be re-formed by Jesus? Spend time praying this week, asking God to search your values and do his work in these areas?
- What obstacles would stand in your way from joining a 7-week discipleship group in October? Begin asking God to help you work through these obstacles.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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<sup>2</sup>Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Recovering our Hidden Life in God* (Harper Collins), p. 121.

<sup>3</sup>Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Works of Bonhoeffer: Discipleship* (Augsburg Publishing, 1995), Vol. 4, p. 44.