Lesson 1

Matthew 5: 1-12

1. What is meant by "beatitude"?

2. Who are the recipients of the Sermon on the Mount? What group of people will receive the blessings found in the Sermon? (Mt. 4:17, Jn 18:36, Col 1:13)

3. In Mt. 5:2-12, is Jesus concerned with the spiritual, physical and/or the social condition of man? Explain your answer.

4. Read Mt. 5:3, and see also Lk 18:10-13, Lk 15:16.

* Who are the poor in Spirit?
* Are they physically poor?
* Which kingdom is theirs?

5. Read Mt. 5:4, and see also Eccl 7:2-4, Ps 119:67,71, 2Cor 7:10.

* Who are those who spiritually mourn as read in these passages?
* What do all these passages teach us about the value of our tears vs laughter?

6. Read Mt. 5:5, and see also Col 3:12, Mt. 11:29, 2Tim 2:24-25, Titus 3:2.

* What does it mean to be spiritually meek?
* Does it mean weak? Please elaborate!

7. Read Mt. 5:6, and see also Rom. 5:1-2, 8:1, Lk 15:14-19.

* What "righteousness" do the hungry and thirsty search after?
* Why is the word hunger used?

8. Read Mt. 5:7, and see also Lk 10:33-37, Mt. 18:21-22, Titus 3:3-4.

* Describe the mercy we are to have.
* What teaching in these passages can help us to be more merciful?

9. Read Mt. 5:8, and see also Jam. 4:7-8, Mt. 22:34-40. From these passages, describe the attitude of heart and of body we must possess to be "pure in heart."

10. Read Mt. 5:9, and see also Rom. 5:1, 12:18, Acts 10:34-36.

* Is the primary focus of this passage social peace?
* What is the peace under consideration?

11. Read Mt. 5:10, and see also Phil. 1:28-29, Jam. 1:2-4, 1Pet 5:6-7.

* If we are truly living for God, should we expect some difficulties?
* What false notion is sometimes taught in the denominational world about life after becoming a Christian?