



THAT'S WHAT HE SAID

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

Discussion Guide

No Comparison

Matthew 5:1-12 | Pastor Dave Bennett | August 2, 2026

Session Overview

This week, we are introducing our new sermon series, “That’s What He Said.” We are going to be contrasting what the world says and what Jesus says. We may think one thing is successful in the kingdom of the world, but it doesn’t bring us anywhere in the Kingdom of God. This week, we are diving into the Beatitudes and learning about postures of humility and meekness that are blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Session Flow (60-75 minutes)

Welcome and Icebreaker (10 minutes)

What is one common situation people usually try to prove themselves, stay in control, or pursue success in the worldly sense?

Purpose: This will get the group thinking about how others or even themselves may try to stay in control of their lives rather than letting God take over.

Scripture Reading

Read Matthew 5:1-12 aloud together.

Leader Coaching Sidebar

- This whole series is about countering what the world says with what Jesus says. With that may come with harsh realizations for people. Come together as a group to support someone through a change in worldview like this.
- If something does come up and an argument arises, encourage everyone to share their view without harshly attacking another person. Openness is key to life-changing discussion. You may learn something new from someone you wouldn’t expect.

Discussion (40-50 minutes)

- 1. What comes to mind when you are thinking about the Sermon on the Mount? Talk about some of the lessons you remember from Matthew 5-7.**

Leader Note: We want to focus on not just hearing the Sermon on the Mount, but truly learning and living it.

- 2. In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus describes the people who will be blessed even though they would be considered “less than” in society. Do you see yourself in this list?**

Leader Note: This connects people to the story and the people of God. It is a reminder that though some qualities are looked down on in the world, they are blessed in heaven.

- 3. Pastor Dave explained that the Beatitudes are an announcement not advice. How does viewing them this way change how we are supposed to live as Christians?**

Leader Note: The Beatitudes as advice don't make sense, but the beatitudes as a proclamation does - the Kingdom is near which is turning everything we know around.

- 4. Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” What does spiritual humility look like in real life, and why is it different from insecurity or low self-worth?**

Leader Note: God does not want us to live a life where we look down on ourselves, but he does want us to not view ourselves too highly.

- 5. Where in your life might you be living with clenched fists, grasping for control, instead of having open hands?**

Leader Note: Being open and willing to accept the gifts God has for us instead of trying to take what we want is part of the humility that God is calling us to have..

- 6. The sermon defines meekness as power under submission. Who in your life gives you an example of that kind of strength?**

Leader Note: Other than Jesus of course, share about someone who demonstrates the meekness we learn about in the Bible.

- 7. In what situations are you most tempted to use your strength, position, words, or influence to dominate rather than serve?**

Leader Note: It can be so easy to slip into using our strength and power to get what we want, but reflect on how they can accept what is given and not force the rest.

- 8. Which Beatitude feels the most uncomfortable or unattainable to you? How can we as a group help you work towards it?**

Leader Note: Bring in the group to this one and make sure to emphasize prayer and support to help one another grow into who God calls us to be.

- 9. The sermon says we live in the “already but not yet” of the Kingdom. How does that truth help you hold both hope and honesty in seasons of grief, injustice, or waiting?**

Leader Note: Think about the hope for the future that this can give us. Try to look towards how God uses us in the Eternal Kingdom on this side of heaven.

- 10. What would it look like this week to “bring your empty hands” before God in a specific area of your life?**

Leader Note: Reflect on a part of your life you may be trying to control and what may come out of letting God take control.

Application and Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pastor Dave finished the sermon asking, “What kingdom are you living in?” What is one practical step you can take this week to take a step further in being a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven?

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord help us to be Kingdom-minded people. The world will soon pass away, but your Kingdom is coming and it will be here to stay. Help us to reflect this Kingdom as we are living in the now and the not yet. Through our humility, help us to show others your Kingdom, and teach us to live a life of humility like Jesus. We lift up the struggles each of us have in trying to become one who lives out the Beatitudes. We all struggle to live out one of these commands you have for us as we ask you to change our hearts to live the Kingdom life. We ask these things in your name, amen.