

5. The good and beautiful life is distinct. Why can't you be salt and light in the world, for the world, if you simply adopt and assimilate to the world's value system, especially those values that make this world all there is and make us the determiners of what's right and good?

6. Following Jesus is about discipleship. That means it's about apprenticeship, it's highly relational and experiential, it's story-formed, and it's practiced. How can you grow in discipleship based on that definition?

7. How is the good and beautiful life a "received" life? Reflect on Michael Wilkins' story:

"That night [in Vietnam] I experienced brokenness. I became poor in spirit as I recognized the depths of my depravity and shuttered as I considered the possibility of my fate before God, if he existed. I mourned the evil in me and at the evil that I saw emerge so quickly in all of us. For the first time in my young life, I understood that I was not the invincible captain of my ship. I could be killed at any moment. So from that very night I began to realize that there was indeed a different way to live. I did not articulate it that night in these words, but meekness, righteousness, mercy, purity, and peacemaking all became so much more clearly preferable than the way that I had been pursuing significance and success."

**Good & Beautiful Life (The Sermon on the Mount) - Part 1**

"5 Basics for a Truly Good and Beautiful Life"

Matthew 5:1-12

**5 Basics for a Truly Good and Beautiful Life**

1. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Matthew 5:12

"Blessed" = \_\_\_\_\_ (by God)

2. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Matthew 5:10

The good and beautiful life Jesus offers is a \_\_\_\_\_ life. But it's the best life and a happy life. Why? "Because great is your reward in heaven." And heaven, in the way that Jesus speaks of heaven, is an eternal life of meaningful purpose, adventure, happiness, intimacy, and delight.

3. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Matthew 5:3-10

We're called to be \_\_\_\_\_.

The blessed haven't bought into the \_\_\_\_\_ culture's ideas of what really matters.

It's so counter-cultural that we naturally \_\_\_\_\_ when we really hear what Jesus is talking about.

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. If you had to replace the words "good and beautiful" from the title of this series, what would you replace them with to capture the purpose of living by Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.

3. Read Matthew 5:1-12. Reading this passage leaves some people feeling overwhelmed or discouraged or even ashamed because they say they follow Christ but their lives don't resemble what Jesus describes here. Some read it with disdain, thinking this is a weak and pathetic way to life. And some read it with excitement, making it their goal to live in this way in 2020. Why would any of those responses constitute a fundamental misunderstanding of the Beatitudes?

4. The good and beautiful life described in the Sermon on the Mount is a happy life – "rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:12). When happiness is in short supply in your life, how might the promises of the Beatitudes encourage you?

4. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

Matthew 5:1-2

This is a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

Key ideas:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Luke 4:17-21; Matthew 5:3-10

You actually \_\_\_\_\_ set out to be poor in spirit or to mourn or to hunger for righteousness.

A helpful resource for going deeper on your own in this series is *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ* by James Bryan Smith.