

溫哥華五旬節堂 2018 夏令靈修營研討主題

第一日： 八月二十日（星期一）

講員： 辛立鵬

主題： 心意更新而變化

「所以，兄弟呀，既然上帝噉樣憐恤我哋，我勸你哋將自己當做生活嘅祭物獻俾上帝，專心事奉佢，得到佢嘅喜歡。呢啲係你哋應該獻上真實嘅敬拜。

唔好效法世界，要等上帝完全改變你哋嘅心思意念，你哋就會明白上帝嘅旨意，知到乜嘢係良善、完全，佢所喜歡嘅。」 羅馬書 12:1-2

「你要保守你心，勝過保守一切，因為一生的果效是由心發出。」 箴言 4:23

1. 生活嘅祭物

現時很多人關注工作與生活的平衡。那麼有沒有屬靈與屬世的生活平衡？你如何去平衡屬靈與屬世的生活？

參考經文：路加 9:23-25，14:33，馬太 6:24

生活嘅祭物是什麼意思？請分享你將生命當活祭的經驗？

有什麼原因使你未能全心全意事奉神？

參考經文：羅馬 7:14-25

耶穌為何不接受你不冷不熱？怎能避免成為一個不冷不熱的基督徒？請分享你的個人經驗。

參考經文：啟示錄 3:15-20

2. 心思意念的改變

效法世界是什麼意思？

參考經文：約翰一書 2:16

世界文化及價值觀怎樣影響我們去學習和實踐神的話語？檢示那些世界想法與神的教訓是有衝突？

為何要改變你嘅心思意念？

參考經文：羅馬 1:28

在改變你的思維方式時，你可以從上帝裡得到什麼幫助？

參考經文：希伯來 4:12，提多書 3:5，約翰福音 15:5，16:13，8:12，提後 1:7，雅各 1:5:

你怎樣能完全改變你嘅心思意念？你能做些什麼來消除你心中不恰當的想法？

參考經文：歌羅西 3:1-8,16，腓立比 4:8，羅馬 16:19

你要改變到什麼樣子？

參考經文：馬可 9:33-34，腓立比 4:8，以弗所 4:22-25

怎樣能使改變可以堅持下去？

參考經文：羅馬 8:5-13，林後 3:16-18

分享個人生命中有那方面經歷心思意念的改變，不再效法世界。

有那方面需要改變但仍未能改變，依然效法世界？

第二日 八月二十一日（星期二）

講員： 鄭黃恩欣

主題： 主呀，使我哋能睇見！

耶穌停落，叫佢哋嚟，問話：「你哋要我為你哋做乜嘢？」

佢哋答話：「主呀，請你使我哋嘅眼能睇見。」（馬太 20:32-33）

（請您在下列 I 至 IV 中，選出與你學習及生活體驗相關的題目，在組內分享；亦歡迎你另外提出與主題及經文相關的問題及分享。）

(I) 兩個盲人呼求主（馬太 20: 29-34）

1. 若主現在問：“你要我為你哋做乜嘢？” 你會怎樣回答呢？
2. 若你是那位盲人，你會向主呼求嗎？還是自己先想吓其他方法？（第 30 節）
3. 你有急切需要時，若被他人責備或不了解，你會有何感受呢/反應呢？會繼續呼求主嗎？（第 31 節）
4. 耶穌曾在你的生命中停下來，呼召你嗎？（第 32 節） 祂向你動過慈心嗎？（和合本第 34 節）這對你有什麼影響呢？

(II) 求你開佢嘅眼

以利沙面對亞蘭軍隊（王下 6:8 -18）

然後佢(以利沙)祈禱話：「耶和華呀！求你開佢嘅眼，使佢睇見！」耶和華聽以利沙嘅祈求。以利沙嘅僕人向上一睇，睇見山邊佈滿火焰車同火馬，圍繞住以利沙。（第 17 節）

1. 你覺得禱告與“開佢嘅眼” 有甚麼關係呢？（第 17 節）在你的禱告中，曾得到神“開你嘅眼”嗎？當客觀環境及人物都有變，神怎樣令你所“睇嘅”已不同呢？神的信息及話語怎樣打動你呢？請分享。
2. “山邊佈滿火焰車同火馬”，這景象對你來講有甚麼意思呢？神曾經怎樣幫助及護衛你呢？

(IIIa) 眼睛是身體的燈 (路加 11:34-36)

你嘅眼好比身上嘅燈。你嘅眼好，全身就光明；你嘅眼壞，全身就黑暗。所以，要省察，免致你裏頭嘅光變成黑暗。若你全身充滿光明，毫無黑暗，就會光輝四射，好似燈嘅亮光照耀你。

1. 請分享當你眼”睇嘅”不同了以後，生命中有甚麼改變?(例如：態度/ 心境/ 與他人嘅交往/ 主動性/ 投入程度/ 對他人嘅愛心同關懷/ 盼望/ 堅持...)

(IIIb) 開佢嘅眼並為佢哋大擺筵席 -- 神透過你嘅生命彰顯祂嘅作為 (王下 6:19-23)

於是以利沙去佢哋個處話：「你哋走錯路；呢處唔係你哋要搵嘅城。跟我嚟，我帶你哋去你哋要搵嘅人個處。」以利沙將佢哋帶到撒馬利亞。佢哋一入城，以利沙就祈禱話：「耶和華呀！求你開佢嘅眼，使佢哋睇見。」耶和華聽以利沙嘅祈求，恢復佢哋嘅視覺。佢哋睇見自己喺撒馬利亞城內。以色列王睇見亞蘭人，就問以利沙：「我應唔應該將佢哋殺死呢？我應唔應該將佢哋殺死呢？」以利沙話：「唔好！就係你喺戰場上俘擄嘅兵亦唔好殺。俾佢哋食，俾水佢哋飲；放佢哋返去佢哋嘅王個處。」於是以色列王，等佢哋飲食完，打發佢哋返回亞蘭王處。從嗰時起，亞蘭人唔再侵犯以色列嘅土地。

1. 請分享一個全身光明嘅生命怎樣能吸引他人來接受神嘅話語及祝福：
 - a. 你怎樣被信徒嘅生命見證所吸引而親近神？
 - b. 神怎樣透過你嘅生命來吸引其他人親近祂？

(IV) 生活分享

請分享你近期嘅一個經歷 -- 耶穌怎樣在你身上工作呢？以下嘅描述你有共鳴嗎？

- 靜下來並讓耶穌跟你對話；
- 耶穌在你的極缺乏/ 需要中，成就奇事；
- 讓耶穌嘅慈愛臨到你；
- 讓耶穌觸動你嘅生命；
- 讓耶穌陶造你；
- 讓神透過你嘅生命彰顯祂嘅作為；

❖ 歡迎你提出代禱的邀請

(V) 其他參考經文

弗 1:18-20；林後 4:4&6

(多謝你在組內嘅投入，歡迎你給我回應及分享。謝謝！ Anne)

第三日 八月二十二日（星期三）

講員： 高惠充

主題： 八福：活出蒙福的國度生命（馬太福音 5:1-16）

1. 簡介

- 1.1 《八福》（“The Beatitudes”）的「福」字，是「蒙福」或「值得慶幸」的意思。
- 1.2 《八福》是描述天國子民的品格，及一個天天在聖靈裏警醒檢討和悔改更新的生命。。
- 1.3 《八福》的次序，是描述天國子民在「效法基督」方面的成長過程。

2. 現在與將來的國度

- 2.1 「天國」是代表上帝的恩慈管治，是祂的旨意得以成就的地方。
- 2.2 「四福音」描述天國是一個現存和現實的經驗；耶穌基督的工作、教訓和神蹟，都顯明了天國在信徒中間的實在（路 11:20, 17:21）。
- 2.3 「雖已開展，尚未完全」（“Already-but-not-yet”）的國度：天國及很多附帶的應許，都已成為教會中的部分經驗；但是天國的權能和影響力，仍然未完全實現，直至耶穌基督再臨的時候。（弗 1:7-11）

3. 《八福》（馬太福音 5:3-12）

- 3.1 第一福：『心靈貧窮的人有福了，因為天國是他們的。』（太 5:3）

意義及主要德行：謙虛，真誠，倚靠上帝 『心靈貧窮』的人，或『虛心』的人，是指那些在神面前虛心承認自己的缺乏和靈性的軟弱，需要上帝的拯救、保護和幫助的人。	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none">只容許別人看見自己的長處、能力和成就。自己的弱點和錯誤，必須隱藏起來。人可以靠做善事來拯救自己。人類面對的一切問題，都可以透過大眾的努力和彼此合作去解決。	<ul style="list-style-type: none">在神面前謙卑承認自己是靈性軟弱和缺乏能力的人，才會得到真正的喜樂。因為只有神才可以改變人的本質和性格。只有由「彌賽亞」耶穌基督掌權管治的國度，才可以永久存留。
相對勢力：驕傲 - 謙卑；自滿自足 - 人的無能；倚靠自己 - 信靠上帝	
相關經文：賽 29:19；太 18:4	
實踐	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">在你的生命領域中，有哪些事情是靠自己的努力去解決，而沒有向神求助？你在什麼環境中，會被驅使在別人面前假裝聖潔、公義或堅強？當你願意在神面前，承認自己無助及缺乏能力時，神怎樣幫助、加添你的力量和祝福你？	

- 3.2 第二福：『哀慟的人有福了，因為他們必得安慰。』（太 5:4）

意義及主要德行：謙虛，真誠	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">『哀慟的人』是指那些在神面前，謙卑和誠實地承認自己的罪過，為自己對神的虧欠而悲傷，並願意誠心悔改，懇切求神赦免和拯救的人。『哀慟的人』也指那些看見世界上的邪惡，而懇切求神差遣救主降臨，重整這個歪曲的世界，秉公義管治屬神的國度的人。	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none">忘記煩惱，活在當下，吃喝玩樂！人生最重要就是活得開開心心！常時提起認罪悔改，容易使人產生負面情緒和充滿罪惡感。	<ul style="list-style-type: none">『耶和華靠近傷心的人，拯救心靈痛悔的人。』（詩 34:18）『你們將要憂愁，然而你們的憂愁將要變成喜樂。』（約 16:20 下）
相對勢力：驕傲 - 謙虛；自欺 - 坦誠	
相關經文：結 36:32；詩 51:17 下；林後 7:10	
實踐	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">若主耶穌現時在你旁邊出現，他會看見你心中有什麼需要他潔淨的隱情？你需要為什麼惡念、惡行和常常纏繞你的惡習而哀傷，向神認罪，懇求他的赦免？請分享當你向神承認自己的罪和向他傾訴你的需要時，神怎樣令你的心充滿平安、喜樂和解脫。	

3.3 第三福：『謙和的人有福了，因為他們必承受地土。』（太 5:5）

意義及主要德行：謙虛，溫柔	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 「謙和」通常是與謙卑、溫柔、及對神的信靠有關係，例如：「我卻要在你們中間留下困苦貧寒的百姓，他們必投靠耶和華的名。」（西番雅書 3:11） 謙和是一個新信主的人在態度上的明顯改變，甘願事奉神及遵行祂的旨意，又以溫柔與別人相交。 	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 擁有財富和能力的人，才可以管治他人。 那些聰明和對自己的能力充滿信心的人，才可以得到權勢和地位。 好人多會被人欺負，常常吃虧。 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 『你要專心仰賴耶和華，不可倚靠自己的聰明。』（箴 3:5-6） 耶穌是“柔和謙卑的。”（太 11:29） 「人的怒氣不能實現神的義。」（雅 1:9）
相對勢力：驕傲 - 謙卑；暴躁 - 溫柔；自私 - 虛己	
相關經文：詩 149:4；彼前 5:6；雅 1:20	
實踐	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 在你的生命中，有什麼事情，會阻礙你完全接受及順服神的旨意，及完全信靠祂？ 當你願意誠心相信及謙卑順服神之時，神曾經怎樣引導和祝福你？ 謙卑和溫柔，曾為你帶來什麼益處？相反地，驕傲和暴躁會引至甚麼損害？ 	

3.4 第四福：『飢渴慕義的人有福了，因為他們必得飽足。』（太 5:6）

意義及主要德行：熱情，熱誠	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 好像貧窮會帶來飢餓一樣，人若知道自己的心靈貧窮，便會對神的管治和帶領產生熱切的渴求，希望能得到真正的公正與和平。 靈命得著重生的人，必定渴慕更認識神的話語，追求敬虔，效法基督，真正活出基督的生命。 	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 凡事追求正義，是不設實際和沒有可能的。 當「實行公義」帶來種種不便之時，可以有彈性一點，暫時放下尊嚴，作出妥協。 『擁有聖經知識不是最重要，只要注重實踐。』 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 『我就是生命的糧。到我這裏來的，絕不飢餓；信我的，永不乾渴。』（約 6:35） 『當用各樣的智慧，把基督的道豐豐富富的存在心裏。』（西 3:16）
相對勢力：無動於衷 - 誠懇熱心；不冷不熱 - 充滿熱誠；虛假 - 真誠；鬆懈 - 勤奮	
相關經文：約 7:37；詩 81:10；彼前 2:2	
實踐	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 找出你生命中三樣令你最感熱衷的事情。若果將你「飢渴慕義」的心與它們比較時，你這「飢渴慕義」的心志會排在什麼位置？ 有什麼事情，會使你對屬靈的事情及熱心事奉主的熱誠減退？ 當你憑「飢渴慕義」的心生活時，神怎樣使你得到滿足？ 	

3.5 第五福：『憐憫的人有福了，因為他們必蒙憐憫。』（太 5:7）

意義及主要德行：愛心，憐憫	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 憐憫是神的一種重要質素。（出埃及記 34:6）神也期望屬祂的人有憐憫的心。（彌迦書 6:8） 受過別人憐憫和饒恕的人，心中應充滿感恩。這種感激之心，會轉化為憐憫別人的心態。 	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 要求正義，有仇必報。 血債血償！ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 『神不願一人沉淪，而是人人都來悔改。』（彼後 3:9 下）
相對勢力：自恃公義 - 慈悲為懷；忘恩負義 - 心存感恩；復仇心重 - 恩慈憐憫	
相關經文：路 6:38；西 3:13	
實踐	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 在你的人生經歷中，你遇過那些極難值得以慈悲對待的人，為甚麼會是這樣？ 你曾經怎樣受到別人的憐憫？這個「被憐憫」的經驗對你有什麼影響？ 在你的生活圈子裏，你會透過什麼實際途徑，去彰顯神的憐憫？ 	

3.6 第六福：『清心的人有福了，因為他們必得見上帝。』（太 5:8）

意義及主要德行：清純，聖潔	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 見到上帝的面，是基督徒最終的盼望（約一 3:2-3），也是信徒得救的盼望最終得以實現。但是，只有內心純潔的人才可以得到這福份。 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 一顆純潔無罪的心，只會追求神所喜悅的事。 雖然只有基督才可以潔淨我們的罪（約一 1:9），只有神才可以將一顆清潔的心施賜給我們（詩 51:10）；但是人的心需要藉著神的話語，好像清水一般將我們心中的污穢漸漸潔淨（弗 5:26），又藉著聖靈的能力（提後 2:13），將我們漸漸轉化，披戴着基督的新形象。 	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 世人要求呼吸新鮮的空氣，飲潔淨的水，吃不受污染的食物；但他們卻放縱私慾，染污自己的心靈。 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 『你們要聖潔，因為我是聖潔的。』（利 19:2） 『人非聖潔不能見主。』（來 12:14 下）
相對勢力：污穢 - 純潔；虛偽 - 真誠；精神散漫 - 精神集中；混淆 - 清晰	
相關經文：詩 51:10；結 36:25-27	
實踐 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 你有多少的熱心和真誠，好像大衛王在詩篇 51:10 中向神呼求一樣：『求你為我造清潔的心，使我裏面重新有正直的靈』？ 你在神面前活出聖潔及無可指責的生命這方面，遇到的最嚴峻挑戰是什麼？ 當你在追求活出聖潔、敬虔和榮耀神的生活時，你會向神祈求什麼？ 	
3.7 第七福：『締造和平的人有福了，因為他們必稱為上帝的兒子。』（太 5:9）	
意義及主要德行：愛心，謙虛 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 和平，是神的國之中最主要的特性（賽 11:6） 神的兒子耶穌基督，就是那位被聖經指明的彌賽亞（詩 2:7）；他的使命就是做復和的工作（林後 5:19）。 在主基督裏，信他的人都獲得作神兒子的名分（加 4:5），因此，神也將復和的工作交託他們。我們是基督的特使。（林後 5:19-20） 	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 這個被戰火蹂躪的世界，渴望有和平，卻找不到達至和平的途徑。 藉著「正義戰爭」尋求和平的方法，將這個世界陷入「戰無止境」的惡性循環之中。 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 只有耶穌基督，透過他的代贖，平息了神對罪惡的義怒和冤仇，才可以帶來真正和永久的和平（弗 2:14） 只有聖靈才可改變人的心態，使他們追求和平。
相對勢力：不滿 - 知足；妒忌 - 謙卑；神的同在 - 神不同在；恐懼心 - 安全感；競爭 - 合作	
相關經文：羅 12:18；約 14:27	
實踐 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 你須要和那些人和解？有什麼事情會阻礙你與他們復和？ 你怎樣能夠在你的生活圈子裏，找尋機會做一個使人和睦的人？ 請分享你的一個「與人復和」或「使人和睦」的經驗。 	
3.8 第八福：『為義受迫害的人有福了，因為天國是他們的。』（太 5:10）	
意義及主要德行：信實，勇敢，能耐 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 耶穌說：『凡作惡的人都恨惡光。』（約 3:20）因此，惡人必恨惡公義和行公義的人。 因為世人已經恨惡公義的耶穌，所以他們也必憎恨耶穌的門徒（約 15:18） 『凡立志在耶穌基督裏敬虔度日的，也都將受迫害。』（提後 3:12） 	
世界怎樣說	聖經怎樣說
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 持守原則是好的，但是，當生命受到威脅或痛苦時，便須「彈性處理」，不應太執著。 「對」與「錯」不應該根據（基督教的）神認為是對人有益的指引作為準則。 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 耶穌說：『他們若逼害了我，也會迫害你們。』（約 15:20） 『豈不知道與世俗為友，就是與神為敵嗎？』（雅 4:4）
相對勢力：不忠 - 忠誠；背信 - 信實；邪惡 - 公義	
相關經文：彼前 5:10；彼前 3:14-15	
實踐 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 回想一次你有意為正義發聲的經歷。若你最後沒有發表意見，是什麼原因？假若你有起來發言，又會帶來什麼結果？ 當你在過去經歷困迫之時，神怎樣幫助你忍耐及平安地面對？ 你會怎樣幫助一些現時正在因著堅持正義而被困迫的人？ 	

Pentecostal Tabernacle Vancouver 2018 Retreat Topics

Day 1: August 20 (Monday)

Speaker: Edmund San

Topic: Transformed by Renewing Your Mind

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Proverbs 4:23

1. A Living Sacrifice

Many people are now concerned about work-life balance. So is there a balance between spiritual and worldly life? How do you balance your spiritual and worldly life?

Reference Scriptures: Luke 9:23-25, 14:33, Matthew 6:24

What does to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice mean? Please share your experience of presenting your life as a living sacrifice?

Is there any reason why you are not able to serve God wholeheartedly?

Reference Scripture: Romans 7:14-25

Why did Jesus speak strongly against faith that is neither hot nor cold? How not to be a lukewarm Christian? Please share your personal experience.

Reference Scripture: Revelation 3:15-20

2. Renewing Your Mind

What does to conform to the pattern of the world mean?

Reference Scripture: 1 John 2:16

How do worldly cultures and values influence us in our learning and practicing the Word of God? Give examples of conflicts between worldly ideas/values and the teachings of God?

Why do you have to renew your mind?

Reference Scripture: Romans 1:28

What help can you get from God when it comes to renewing your mind?

References: Hebrews 4:12, Titus 3:5, John 15:5, 16:13, 8:12, 2 Timothy 1:7, James 1:5:

How can you be transformed by renewing your mind? What can you do to eliminate inappropriate ideas in your heart?

Reference Scriptures: Colossians 3:1-8,16, Philippians 4:8, Romans 16:19

What do you want to change?

Reference Scriptures: Mark 9:33-34, Philippians 4:8, Ephesians 4:22-25

How can the change be sustained?

Reference Scriptures: Romans 8:5-13, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Please share your personal experience of transformation by the renewal of your mind, citing both successful and not-so-successful examples.

Day 2: August 21 (Tuesday)

Speaker: Anne Cheng

Topic: “Lord, we want to see!”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

“Lord,” they answered, “we want to see.” Matthew 20:32-33

(The following questions in <Part I to IV> are for your reference in group discussion. You may like to choose those that are relevant to your learning and experience. You are welcome to come up with your own self-reflective questions and sharing in learning this topic and Bible passages.)

(I) Two blind beggars cried out to Jesus Matthew 20:29-34

1. If Jesus asks you, “What do you want me to do for you?” How would you reply?
2. If you were the two blind beggars, would you cry out to Jesus? Or would you try other ways to meet your needs? (verse 30)
3. How would you feel when you are in need but others don’t understand or even scold you? Would you continue to cry out to Jesus? (verse 31)
4. What is your experience of Jesus stopping and calling you (verse 32) / having compassion on you? (verse 34) What has been the impact?

(II) Open his eyes, Lord

Elisha traps blinded Arameans 2 King 6: 8-18

*And Elisha prayed, “**Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.**” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.* (verse 17)

1. What do you think about the relationship of praying and “opening the eyes”? (verse 17)
Please share an experience of how God “opened your eyes” even though the situations and the people involved did not change. How did God’s messages and words encourage you?
2. What does “the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around” mean to you? How did God help and protect you?

(IIIa) The Light Within Luke 11:34-36

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you."

1. What changes have taken place in your life after God had "opened your eyes"? (e.g., attitude, state of mind, self-initiation, willingness to contribute/participate, communication with others, love and care for others, hope and perseverance...)

(IIIb) Open their eyes and prepare a great feast (God working *through* you)

2 Kings 6:19-23

*Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. After they entered the city, Elisha said, "**Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see.**"...*

*"Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." So he prepared **a great feast** for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.*

1. Please share how the light in one's life attracts people to God, so that they can receive the richness of God's words and blessings:
 - a. How have you been attracted to God by a believer's life?
 - b. How has God worked through you to attract other people to Him?

IV) More Sharing...

Please share a recent experience of how you have made room for Jesus to work on you. You may include the following if they are relevant:

- Stop and let Jesus have a conversation with you
- Let Jesus work wondrously in your life when you are most in need
- Let Jesus' compassion come to you
- Let Jesus touch you
- Willing to be changed/transformed by His love
- ❖ Your prayer request is welcome

V) For your reference

Ephesians 1:18-20; II Cor 4:4 & 6

(Thanks for your contribution in the group discussion. Your feedback and sharing to me will be much appreciated! Anne)

Day 3: August 22, 2018 (Wednesday)

Speaker: Geoffrey Ko

Topic: The Beatitudes: Living Out the Blessed Kingdom Life (Matthew 5:1-16)

1. Introduction

1.1 The word *beatitude* comes from a Latin word *beatus* which means “happy” or “blessed.”

1.2 The Beatitudes highlight the characteristics of the citizens of the kingdom of God and a life of ongoing vigilance, repentance and renewal in the Spirit.

1.3 Their sequence describes the progressive development of Christ-likeness in a believer.

2. Present and Future Kingdom

2.1 The kingdom of heaven represents God’s gracious rule—where his will is done.

2.2 God’s kingdom is portrayed in the gospels as a present experience for those who believe in Jesus, whose ministry, teachings and miracles are manifestations of it (Luk 11:20, 17:21).

2.3 “Already-but-not-yet”: The kingdom of heaven and the promises within it are *already* part of the church’s experience. However, the fullness of its power and influence is *not yet* totally experienced. Jesus Christ will bring about the fullness of the kingdom in his Second Coming.

3. The Beatitudes (Mat 5:3-12)

3.1 Beatitude 1: “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 5:3)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Humility, Honesty, God-dependence The “poor in spirit” are those who acknowledge their inadequacies and recognize their need for God in all things, that only God can save, protect and strengthen them.	
What the WORLD Says	What the BIBLE Says
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Show off your abilities and strengths.• Cover up your weaknesses and mistakes.• One can earn his salvation by doing good.• All human problems can be solved through collective will and effort and cooperation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The truly happy people are those who admit their spiritual bankruptcy before God, who alone can transform human nature.• The only everlasting kingdom is the one where the Messiah rules. (Rev 11:15, 19:6)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Pride Vs. Humility; Self-sufficiency Vs. Total Human Depravity; Self-reliance Vs. God-dependence	
RELATED TEXTS: Isa 29:19; Mat 18:4.	
APPLICATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In what areas of your life are you trying to make it on your own instead of seeking God’s help?• On what occasions would you be driven to pretend to be holy, righteous, or strong?• In what ways has God helped, strengthened or blessed you as a result of your honest admission of your own inability and inadequacy before him?	

3.2 Beatitude 2: Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be comforted.” (Mat 5:4)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Humility, Honesty
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Those who mourn” refer to people admitting their wrongdoing, feeling remorseful and desiring God’s forgiveness and salvation through genuine repentance.• “Those who mourn” are also those who recognize the perversions of the world and wish God to send his Messiah to restore his kingdom and set the world right.

What the WORLD Says	What the BIBLE Says
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't worry. Be happy! • The most important thing in life is to be happy at all times. • Too much talk about sin and repentance negatively burdens people with guilt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psa 34:18) • "You will grief, but your grief will turn to joy." (Jhn 16:20b)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Pride Vs. Humility; Self-deception Vs. Truthfulness	
RELATED TEXTS: Ezk 36:32; Psa 51: 17b; 2Co 7:10.	
APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Jesus were here now, what secrets in your heart would be exposed and need cleansing? • What sinful thoughts, deeds and entangling habits do you need to mournfully confess? • Share the peace, joy and relief you felt after you had confessed your sins and needs to God. 	

3.3 Beatitude 3: "Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth." (Mat 5:5)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Humility, Gentleness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meekness is often associated with humbleness and trust in God, e.g., "...But I will leave within you the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the Lord." (Zep 3:11-12) • Meekness marks the attitude of a new believer—willingness to serve God and do his will and treating others with humility and gentleness. 	
What the WORLD Says	What the BIBLE Says
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the wealthy, proud and mighty will rule the world. • Those who are confident in themselves and their abilities can hold on to authority. • "Nice guys finish last." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Trust in the LORD...lean not on your understanding." (Pro 3:5) • Jesus is "gentle and humble" (Mat 11:29). • "A man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (Jas 1:20)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Pride Vs. Humility; Aggressiveness Vs. Gentleness; Selfishness Vs. Selflessness	
RELATED TEXTS: Psa 149:4; 1Pe 5:6.	
APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What areas of your life hinder you from accepting or obeying God's will and trusting him? • How has God guided and blessed you as a result of your trust in and obedience to him? • In what ways have humbleness and gentleness benefitted you in life? • In what ways will pride, bad temper and anger hurt others and destroy relationships? 	

3.4 Beatitude 4: "Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled." (Mat 5:6)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Passion and Zeal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just as poverty leads to hunger, the recognition of one's spiritual poverty leads to a hunger for righteousness and a desire for God's rule which will bring justice and peace. • Those who are spiritually born again strongly desire to be godly or Christ-like so that the attributes of Christ are reproduced in their lives. 	
What the WORLD Says	What the BIBLE Says
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's futile to desire things to be right. It's meaningless and impossible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...who believes in me will never be thirsty." (Jhn 6:35)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When doing what is right is inconvenient, it is fine to compromise and set aside honor. "Biblical knowledge isn't that important. Application is everything." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom." (Col 3:16)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Indifference Vs. Passion; Luke-warmness Vs. Zeal; Insincerity Vs. Sincerity; Laxity Vs. Diligence	
RELATED TEXTS: Jhn 7:37; Psa 81:10; 1Pe 2:2.	
APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify your three major passions in life. Where is "hungering and thirsting for righteousness" ranked among your passions? What has taken away your passion and zeal for the things of God? In what ways has God satisfied you when you have hungered and thirsted for righteousness? 	

3.5 Beatitude 5: "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy." (Mat 5:7)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Charity, Compassion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mercy is part of God's nature. (Exo 34:6) He expects mercy from his people. (Mic 6:8) People who have experienced mercy and forgiveness are filled with gratitude. Their gratitude, in return, cultivates a merciful attitude towards others. 	
What the WORLD Says <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "We want justice!" "Avenge blood with blood!" 	What the BIBLE Says <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "(God)... not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2Pe 3:9)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Self-righteousness Vs. Compassion; Ingratitude Vs. Gratitude; Revengefulness Vs. Grace	
RELATED TEXTS: Luk 6:38; Col 3:13.	
APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which people in your life do you find it most difficult to be merciful to? Why? In what ways have you been shown mercy? How has that experience affected you? In what practical ways can you demonstrate God's mercy in your local community? 	

3.6 Beatitude 6: "Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God." (Mat 5:8)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Purity, Holiness Seeing God is the ultimate hope of the believer (1Jn 3:2-3) and the fulfillment of the blessed promise of salvation. But only the pure in heart may receive this blessing. A pure heart is cleansed of sin and desires only what God wants. Although only Christ can cleanse us from sin (1Jn 1:9) and only God can give us a pure heart (Psa 51:10), it is the cleansing effect of God's word (Eph 5:26) and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (2Th 2:13) that gradually transform us into the new image of Jesus Christ. 	
What the WORLD Says <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While people demand clean air, water and food, many indulge themselves in lust and devalue the heart and mind. 	What the BIBLE Says <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Without holiness no one will see the Lord." (Heb 12:14) "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (Lev 9:2)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Filthiness Vs. Purity; Pretense Vs. Truthfulness; Distraction Vs. Focus; Chaos Vs. Clarity	
RELATED TEXTS: Psa 51:10; Ezk 36:25-27.	
APPLICATION	

- How real and urgently do you feel the need to pray to God as David did in Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me?”
- What are your greatest challenges when it comes to living a holy, blameless life before God?
- In your quest to live a holy, godly and God-honoring life, what would you ask God for?

3.7 Beatitude 7: “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called sons of God.” (Mat 5:9)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Charity, Humility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace is a central characteristic of the kingdom of heaven. (Isa 11:6) • The “Son of God” is the Messiah (Psa 2:7) whose mission is reconciliation. (2Co 5:19) • In Christ, we who believe in him “receive the full rights of sons” (Gal 4:5) to whom God has committed the message of reconciliation. We are Christ’s ambassadors. (2Co 5:19-20) 	
What the WORLD Says	What the BIBLE Says
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The war-weary world desires peace, but finds no effective means to obtain real and lasting peace. • Peace through “just wars” has resulted in an endless cycle of violence throughout human history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Jesus makes real and lasting peace possible—by satisfying God’s righteous anger against sin through his sinless life and sacrificial death. (Eph 2:14) • Only the Spirit can change one’s heart and fill it with peace and harmony.
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Discontentment Vs. Contentment; Jealousy Vs. Humility; God’s Absence Vs. God’s Presence; Fear Vs. Security; Competition Vs. Collaboration	
RELATED TEXTS: Rom 12:18; Jhn 14:27.	
APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are the people you need to make peace with? What is preventing you from doing so? • Where in a community can you find the opportunity to serve as a peacemaker? • Share a real-life reconciliation or peacemaking experience of yours with your group. 	

3.8 Beatitude 8: Blessed are those who are **persecuted because of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 5:10)

MEANING AND PRIMARY VIRTUES: Faithfulness, Courage, Perseverance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus says that “everyone who does evil hates the light.” (Jhn 3:20) • The world would hate the disciples because it hated Jesus first. (Jhn 15:18) • “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus would be persecuted.” (1Th 3:12) 	
What the WORLD Says	What the BIBLE Says
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles are good, but not if they get you killed or cause you grief. Be flexible! • Standards for right and wrong are not defined by what God desires for our good. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” (Jhn 15:20) • “...Friendship with the world is hatred toward God.” (Jas 4:4)
OPPOSING FORCES IN ACTION Disloyalty Vs. Loyalty; Unfaithfulness Vs. Faithfulness; Evil Vs. Righteousness	
RELATED TEXTS: 1Pe 5:10; 1Pe 3:14-15.	
APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of a time when you felt like speaking up for what was right. If you did not speak up, what prevented you from doing it? If you did speak up, what result did it bring? • How has God enabled you to patiently and peacefully live through persecutions in the past? • How can you help others who are facing persecution because of righteousness? 	