

October 2, 2011

Week Three Small Group Instructions for *The Kingdom of God*

Bill Warrick Paradox 2: Poverty and Wealth – Kingdom Economics Matt. 5:1-12

Please note that there are answers to the questions in the back of the book for leaders to reference throughout the study.

1. Jesus has a series of values that defined His Kingdom. What values did your parents emphasize the most during your childhood? **Open Answer.**
2. Read the two accounts of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 and Luke 6:20-26. “Blessed” is often defined as happy, joyful or satisfied. Another commentator defines blessed as, “being on the right path in life.” What are the differences between the values that are blessed and the values that bring about “woe?” **The blessed values are based on delayed gratification; the things that bring about woe are all based on immediate gratification. The world values those things to which Jesus warns us against. Those who recognize their spiritual needs are blessed, those who view themselves as self sufficient are to be pitied.**
3. Go through questions 1-11 on page 47-49. Ask someone in the group to read each of the passages that are included in those questions.
4. Ask someone to read the “Key Points to Remember” on page 49 and 50.
5. Turn to page 51 in your books and read the passages on the left in order to fill out the columns on the right. Answer questions 1 and 2 on page 52. Answer question 4 on page 52.
6. The opening illustration of Chapter 3 discussed the early church as radically countercultural. In what ways were those Christians different from the world? **They were willing to lose their life for the sake of those who were in need. They were not preoccupied with self interest.** How are Christians often seen as different today? **Christians are seen as “holier than thou” or judgmental. They are seen often as living the same way as non Christians, but thinking that they are more righteous. Christians are seen too often as saying one thing, but doing another.** How do we change that perspective of the Church? **Talk less, and serve more. Stop pointing fingers and start washing feet instead.**
7. Jesus often retreated with his disciples. What is your personal plan or marital plan to get away on a retreat on a regular basis each month or year? **Open Answer. (The Men’s Retreat is coming up on Nov 3-4 in Richmond VA. Men can register online at www.wcchapel.org)**

Ask the group to read Chapter 4 for next week’s meeting. Close by asking for any prayer requests and praying for the group as the leader, or praying together as a group.

Footnotes on this week’s bible passages:

- Matthew/Levi is the same person. Matthew is the Greek name and Levi was the Hebrew name. As a tax-collector, Matthew worked for Greek-speaking Romans. He gathered taxes from Hebrew-speaking Jews.