



## Astonishing Blessings – 6/2/19

### OVERVIEW

We strive to be good. Don't we? But good is defined based on our perspective. So many of us lift up self-confidence, pride in our accomplishments, and value in being known and recognized - none of which are necessarily bad. But, without God, can they really be good? Unpack what the blessings promised in the beatitudes say about who we should strive to be.

Scriptures (all ESV unless noted): Matthew 4:23-25; 5:1-10; 7:21-25; 23:25; 26:52-54; and Romans 7:21-25 (NIV)

### APPLICATION

1. Jeremy shared a memory from his childhood playground experience. Share one of your playground memories.
2. How would you respond if you were being interviewed and were asked, "What are you known for?"
3. Romans 7:21-23 gives us a good picture of spiritual mourning. In what area of your life do you struggle like this? Where do you find brokenness in your life that you can't seem to get past?
4. Jeremy shared seven questions that you can ask from the beatitudes. Which of these questions resonates as something you need to work on? What is a practical step you are going to take to be more like Jesus?
  - a. Do I recognize (outside of Jesus) that I'm spiritually bankrupt?
  - b. Does my sin cause a sadness in my spirit?
  - c. Do I use my strength to assert my will over others or to serve them?
  - d. What am I justifying in my life that would displease Jesus?
  - e. How do I respond to a person's distress and misery whom I don't like?
  - f. How do I act when no one else is looking?
  - g. What best describes me: a pot stirrer, a conflict avoider, or a peacemaker?

HOMEWORK: This week, begin memorizing the beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12.

