

Against The Flow

Sunday 28 January 2024

1. Would you say most people you know are happy? Why or why not?
2. Read Matthew 5 v 1-12. As the first major address of Jesus Ministry, what makes His opening (The Beatitudes) so compelling?
3. What comes to mind when you hear the word “blessed,” which literally means *happy*? The kind of happiness Jesus was referring to here is much deeper than a lighthearted “don’t worry; be happy” attitude. Has your understanding of what blessed means been wrong? Why or why not? How does the biblical view of blessing change the way you think about your circumstances?
4. Read Matthew 4:23-25. When you think of the kingdom of God, do you understand you can experience God right now in your current circumstances?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17. How often do you think about heaven? If you think about how long forever really is and what that means for all people, do you feel more motivated to risk more to be a light to the people in your life who don’t know Jesus?
6. What are the challenges these days to living an authentic life?

7. Read Exodus 20:3 and Matthew 6:19-21. Are there things in your life you need to realign your priorities to live more authentically?
8. When did you first realise your own spiritual poverty? How did that realisation help you see life differently?
9. Read John 4:7-13. God knows all our secrets, our problems, our hurts, our struggles, the areas of our lives marked with shame, bitterness, failure, defeat, insecurity, bitterness, self-righteousness, arrogance, envy, selfishness...the dark areas, the inappropriate parts of our lives. He calls us to bring these to him. What keeps us from doing so?
10. Read Luke 18:13-14. Discuss what Jesus 'explanation that "all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" means to you.