**The Jesus Lifestyle – Sermon Notes**

**The degree to which we allow God’s Spirit to mould our hearts so that we become more like Jesus will be the degree to which our lives reflect the gospel.**

Read Matthew 5:7-16

* Through the giving of the Law received by Moses on Mount Sinai the Israelites were called to be different from the peoples of the surrounding nations. A key text in Jesus’ sermon is ‘Do not be like them’ (Mt 6:8). Do people outside the church think Christians are different and if so what makes them different?
* The second set of beatitudes focus on our relationships with one another. How do you understand ‘being merciful’ and how does that relate to receiving and offering forgiveness to those who have wronged/hurt us?
* If ‘purity in heart’ is the requirement by which we can ‘see’ or experience God what are the obstacles to overcome in order to have an ‘undivided’ (pure) heart. See David’s plea to God (Psalm 51:10).
* How does being a peacemaker reflect the very character of God?
* Do you have an example of when you have tried to act as a go between to bring peace into a situation? What was the outcome and how did it feel being in that position?
* When we seek to follow the call of Jesus and live by these radical counter cultural values, the result could end in us being persecuted at some level (v10-12). How do you feel about that and the response Jesus requires to ‘rejoice and be glad’?
* Share an occasion when you have tried to ‘be salt’ by bringing something good into a situation or ‘be light’ by letting your light shine before people.

**Pray together that our hearts may be shaped to be more like Jesus**.

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