

Hope City Church

Going Deeper Notes | 06.12.22

Revelation 2:8-11 | Matthew 5:1-12 | Hosea 4:1-11

Blessed are the poor...

Icebreaker: On the lighter side of things, what is one thing you have always wanted growing up that you were finally able to obtain (or not)? How did that feel? For me, as a kid in elementary school, I always wanted a pair of Vans shoes, but we couldn't afford them. I still remember the day we got to go to the Vans store. :o)

Going Deeper:

- 1) Of the 7 churches in Revelation, Smyrna seems to get a pass when it comes to condemnation or caution. What else is this church going through? Reference Revelation 2:8-11 (p. 950, Life Transformation Bible). What trials or tribulations have you endured in your own life? How have you seen God work through those moments to encourage you? How has that encouraged the people around you? What challenges are you going through now?
- 2) Check out Matthew 5:1-12 (p. 736, LTB). Right there in the middle of this list of people that Jesus is calling blessed, he mentions people like those in Smyrna in verse 3. How is it a blessing to be like those described in verse 3? What else is the Spirit of God saying to you as you read through Matthew 5:1-12?
- 3) In Hosea 4:1-11 (p. 680, LTB), the prophet is speaking to a nation that has shifted its focus from God to other things. What are some of those things mentioned here in this chapter? Make a list if that is helpful for you to focus on the question.

There also seems to be a nugget of wisdom in Hosea 4:6. How does this verse seem to be playing out in the world we experience today—people being ripped up because they do not know God? How, specifically, can your life look differently as you respond to Hosea 4:6—how can you make it your focus to know God in a more personal way?

Action: Make it personal. Our thinking is often focused on what we have or don't have here in this world. How often do we think about what we do have and all of the ways God has blessed us? More significantly, how do our decisions now, impact the person we are becoming in an eternal sense? Being poor in spirit is less about possessions and more about one's eternal perspective, seeing beyond the here and now, looking forward to what's to come and then asking what God would want you to do in the moments you are facing now. In what ways has God uniquely equipped you to share with the people around you? Who are you doing that with? How do you see them growing in their own relationship with God, getting to know Him personally?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you that you do not waste anything. The suffering I have endured, the trials and the tribulations, all of these you will use to develop your character within me! You will use these things to soften my heart and equip me to see the struggles that the people around me are going through. You will use these things to give me a voice to share with other people about how you have been there for me and how you will be there for them, too! Help me to be bold and mindful of the people that you lead across my path. Give me the words to show them who you are, Jesus! I want to glorify your Name with my life, Jesus!