

PREACHING CURRICULUM

The Authentic Christian

Matthew 5:1-20

'...ultimately everyone is seeking approval... where are you seeking your approval from?...

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Reread Matthew 5:1-20

Blessed are those... or 'happy' are those who... How can they who are living through the things described here be 'happy'?

How does authentic Christianity look and live inward (vs. 3-5)?

How does authentic Christianity look and live upward (vs. 6)?

How does authentic Christianity look and live outward (vs. 7-11)?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Authenticity is primarily about who we are, not what we think only, or do only, but who we are.

Who are you? Where does your identity and approval come from?

Are you content with your authentic self? Is Jesus?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What is an authentic Christian?

Is authenticity more than sharing our 'real' failures to others?

If our 'authenticity' stops at disclosure and does not use the grief of recognition for change, are we 'really' free of the criticism of hypocrisy levelled at us by society?

How can we live to be authentic Christians?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

If our aim is personal forgetfulness (letting go of more of ourselves) and Christlikeness (becoming more like Him, how will you start this week?