



Exchange 22 Aug 2015  
Jesus and Morality

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12 (called "The Beatitudes").
  - a) What is your favourite part? Do you relate to any of the categories?
  - b) What do you find confusing?
  - c) Is there a pattern to the Beatitudes? If so, what?
2. The Beatitudes list unexpected categories of people who are "blessed" (the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," etc.).
  - a) What does it mean to be "blessed"? Is it the same thing as "happy?"
  - b) Do you feel "blessed"? Why or why not?
3. Luke records a similar sermon in Luke 6:20-26. Compare and contrast with Matthew 5:1-12. What can you learn?
4. Recently, hackers released the user database for Ashley Madison, an online dating site for people looking to have extramarital affairs. Its slogan is "Life is short. Have an affair." Some people whose names and email addresses have been released as on the list have said that they had signed up out of curiosity but that they never actually had an affair. According to Jesus, "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Do you think someone who has the desire to have an affair is as guilty as someone who actually committed adultery?
5. Jesus lived a sinless life and became our substitute, and we are saved by His merits, not ours. So then why does morality matter?
6. Do you think the standards Jesus sets (for example, "whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" 25:22) are possible to follow? Why does Jesus set the bar so high?
7. What do you do practically to help you release your anger? What could you do differently?

*Please share prayer requests & praises with each other and have a volunteer pray to close.  
Thanks for joining us today!*

Notes: