

2

TRANSFORMATION

"we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory." 2 Cor 3:18

All groups are encouraged to attend the *Understanding Personality Strengths and Weaknesses* seminar presented this Wednesday night 25th July at St Marks Church, 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start. If your group is unable to attend the seminar, or you decide to meet together in addition to the seminar, the study on the back of this page provided.

REFLECTION:

TRANSFORMATION AND PERSONALITY SEMINAR

If you attended the seminar, take some time to reflect on what you heard. Either in your small group, or alone, consider the following.

1. What did you think of the range of types of personalities identified?
2. The names given to each are meant to be helpful labels rather than hard and fast biblical definitions. For example, a prophet-type personality may not be a 'Spiritually Gifted' Prophet in the strict sense that the bible uses the term. What personality type would you say you are?
3. What did you learn about yourself in the seminar?
4. How do you think this understanding could help you engage with God in his work of transformation towards Christlikeness?

*According to Jesus in Matthew 5, the 'blessed' are:
the poor in spirit,
the meek,
those who hunger
and thirst for
righteousness,
the merciful,
the pure in heart,
the peacemakers,
those persecuted for
righteousness.*

*If this is so, why
would you want to
be 'blessed'?*

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Bring a notebook, exercise book or journal that you will write in and keep for the duration of these studies—and perhaps longer! A simple ruled exercise book (5c at Officeworks!) will suffice. Or you might prefer a beautifully made and elaborate diary—it won't be wasted.

BIBLE STUDY: THE BEATITUDES

In the first sermon of this series, we were introduced to the Beatitudes—that passage that begins Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-12. In this short study we will consider the way that Jesus' words here call us to a new framework for living. The life of Heaven is to invade our present: we are to live now the way that we will live then.

Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. What do you think Jesus means when he calls certain people 'blessed'? What is that blessing?
2. If we understand the second part of each beatitude as describing being 'blessed' in some way, in what sense is the Christian person already 'blessed'? Why do you think that Jesus speaks of all but one of these blessings in the future tense?
3. What do you think Jesus means by 'the poor in spirit' in verse 3? How are we 'poor'? Read Isaiah 61:1-7. What is the good news preached to the poor? How does Jesus relate to this kind of 'blessing'?
4. What kind of 'mourning' do you think Jesus has in mind in verse 4?
5. What do you think it means to 'hunger and thirst for righteousness' in verse 6? Read Isaiah 51:1-6. How might this understanding of hungering for righteousness frame Jesus words in verse 6? How does/will such righteousness come about?
6. What do you think it means to be a 'peacemaker' in verse 9? We sometimes think of peace as the absence of war but in Jewish thought there was a positive state of affairs call 'shalom'. It is the kind of peace that Jesus refers to in this beatitude. Read Psalm 85. What are the characteristics of the peace that God promises his people? How is such peace made? What is our part in this?
7. How is your character challenged by Jesus' view of "blessing" in these verses?
8. Optional: How might these verses shape our understanding of Jesus' mission?