

December 23, 2022

Dear CRE student,

We missed you at CRE on December 12th! So that you keep up with the other people in your group, we ask that you complete the following:

1. Pray the following prayer:

John 10:10

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

We thank you God for the opportunity to be together and the opportunity to grow in faith, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time together. We ask for the special intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary this evening as we pray, Hail Mary...

2. We watched a video from YDisciple called “Seeking Forever” and discussed the following questions. To watch the video, go to <https://www.dropbox.com/s/hj5sg67h9s0seba/seeking%20fulfillment.mp4?dl=0> Please answer to the best of your ability the following:

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT STOOD OUT TO YOU?
- REMEMBER BACK TO OUR DISCUSSION IN SESSION 1 WHERE WE TALKED ABOUT THINGS THAT WE HAD REALLY WANTED, BUT FELL FLAT WHEN WE ACTUALLY GOT THEM. TANNER’S STORY ABOUT HIS AIR FORCE ONES ARE A GREAT REMINDER THAT THE THRILL FADES WHEN WE SEEK SATISFACTION IN THE WRONG PLACES. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT POP CULTURE OR PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE TELL YOU WILL SATISFY YOU, BUT YOU EITHER HAVEN’T BEEN ABLE TO ATTAIN OR THEY DIDN’T ACTUALLY SATISFY YOU WHEN YOU GOT THEM?
- FR. EMMANUEL TALKED ABOUT HOW EVEN THE WORDS WE USE LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT MATERIAL THINGS WILL FULFILL OUR DESIRES (E.G. AMAZON “FULFILLMENT” WAREHOUSES). THINK OF THE HAPPIEST PERSON YOU KNOW. WHAT MAKES THEM SO HAPPY? IS IT THE THINGS THEY OWN OR SOMETHING ELSE?
- C.S. LEWIS SAYS, “IF WE FIND OURSELVES WITH A DESIRE THAT NOTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN SATISFY, THE MOST PROBABLE EXPLANATION IS THAT WE WERE MADE FOR ANOTHER WORLD.” WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS MEANS?
- HOW DOES GOD USE OUR DESIRES TO DRAW US TO HIMSELF?
- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS DEFINES HUMILITY AS, “SEEING OURSELVES AS GOD SEES US: KNOWING EVERY GOOD WE HAVE COMES FROM HIM AS PURE GIFT.” C.S. LEWIS DEFINES IT THIS WAY: “HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOURSELF. IT IS THINKING OF YOURSELF LESS.” HOW DO YOU THINK HUMILITY WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS?

- DESCRIBE A TIME THAT YOU'VE FELT THE MOST ALIVE.
- TIM TALKS ABOUT HOW JESUS DIDN'T COME TO MAKE BAD PEOPLE GOOD, HE CAME TO MAKE DEAD PEOPLE LIVE. HOW MIGHT A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS HELP US LIVE MORE FULLY?
- KACI TALKS ABOUT HOW SHE AND TANNER BOTH STRUGGLE TO TRY TO DO EVERYTHING ON THEIR OWN, INCLUDING GETTING TO HEAVEN. THEY RELY ON THEMSELVES RATHER THAN ON GOD. HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE YOU NEEDED TO EARN HEAVEN OR EARN GOD'S LOVE?
- HOW MIGHT HUMILITY HELP US FIGHT AGAINST SELF-RELIANCE?
- TIM SAYS THAT MORALITY ISN'T A BUNCH OF RULES, BUT A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT HELPS US LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL. HE GIVES THE EXAMPLE OF MOTHER TERESA, WHO WAS RADICALLY TRANSFORMED BY GOD SO THAT SHE WENT OUT AND LOVED OTHERS RADICALLY BY SERVING THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN THE SLUMS OF KOLKATA, INDIA. HOW DOES MOTHER TERESA'S EXAMPLE SHOW US HOW A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD CAN TRANSFORM US AND HELP US TO BE LOVE TO OTHERS? HOW COULD THAT LOOK PRACTICALLY IN THE LIFE OF A TEENAGER LIKE YOURSELF?
- WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE BEATITUDES?
- HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE RELIGION WAS JUST A BUNCH OF RULES? HOW DID THAT VIEW OF RELIGION IMPACT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
- TANNER TALKS ABOUT THIS G.K. CHESTERTON QUOTE: "THE MORE I CONSIDERED CHRISTIANITY, THE MORE I FOUND THAT WHILE IT HAD ESTABLISHED A RULE AND ORDER, THE CHIEF AIM OF THAT ORDER WAS TO GIVE ROOM FOR GOOD THINGS TO RUN WILD." HOW DO YOU THINK RULES MIGHT ALLOW GOOD THINGS TO RUN WILD? IN OTHER WORDS, HOW MIGHT FOLLOWING THE RULES GOD GIVES US GIVE US A FULLER LIFE?
- TANNER TALKS ABOUT HOW THE COMMANDMENTS AND THE BEATITUDES ARE THE MAP GOD GIVES US TO GET TO HEAVEN, AND HOW FOLLOWING THAT MAP MAKES SENSE SINCE THE ONE WHO MADE THE MAP ALSO MADE US. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY/FULFILLED/SATISFIED?
- DO YOU THINK THAT FOLLOWING THE COMMANDMENTS AND BEATITUDES CAN HELP YOU GET THERE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

### 3. Closing prayer

In the last section of the video, Tanner talks about how the Beatitudes are part of the map God gives us to get to heaven and to live a more full life on earth . For our closing prayer, take some time to read a reflection on the Beatitudes and how they apply to our lives. Pay attention to which of the Beatitudes sticks out to you the most.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Then read the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-11.

Each of the Beatitudes begins with the words “Blessed are they.....” Fr. Anthony tells Tanner that the original Greek, the language the New Testament was written in, the word in place of “Blessed” is makarios, which translates to ‘happy’ or perhaps even ‘lucky.’

Bishop Robert Barron uses this translation of “lucky” to help us better understand the Beatitudes. He writes:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit.’ We might say, ‘How lucky you are if you are not addicted to material things.’ Here Jesus is telling us how to realize our deepest desire, which is the desire for God, not for passing things that only bring temporary comfort.

‘Blessed are those who mourn.’ We might interpret it this way: ‘How lucky you are if you are not addicted to good feelings.’ Doing the will of God sometimes involves the acceptance of enormous pain, but when you’re free from dependence on good feelings, you’re liberated for whatever life demands.

‘Blessed are the meek.’ One of the world’s greatest seductions is power. But what we ought to do is eschew worldly power, so that the power of the will of God might reign in us.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.’ In other words, how lucky you are if you are not addicted to the approval of others.”

- GO THROUGH THE REST OF THE BEATITUDES. USING THE EXAMPLES BISHOP BARRON GIVES, HOW WOULD YOU REPHRASE THE REMAINING BEATITUDES?
- WHICH BEATITUDE STICKS OUT TO YOU THE MOST?

Please complete and submit by our next class. You may email it to [rotramelm@stjohn23rd.org](mailto:rotramelm@stjohn23rd.org) or turn it in to your catechist/small group leader.

Peace and Blessings,

Maureen Rotramel  
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