

the toys that the children play with while they are there.

Please join us and be a part of this blessing we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

1 Youth is continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bin.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

Bible verse of the month

Isaiah 41:10

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

before God, asking for His divine grace & mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. Only then can we be forgiven and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Next we looked at verse 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

We found that the second Beatitude was similar in that the Greek word for 'mourn', meaning to have deep grief or intense sorrow, usually in reference to the dead, is also used in reference to mourning over our own sins and the sins of others.

Rather than referring to the personal sorrows, disappointments, and losses that we experience in life, Jesus is describing the mourning of our spirit over our sins and our separation from God.

We looked at a few examples of 'mourning in our spirit' in **Isaiah 59:1-3** and also in **Psalms 51** where we find King David deeply expressing intense sorrow for what he had done. We were also reminded of what he had actually done in order to better understand the intensity of his sins.

We then looked at the Greek word for 'comfort' which literally means to be 'called near' in order to receive aid and we determined, in this context, that it refers to being called near to or invited by God to His side.

We said that many times, when we do acknowledge our sin, our first instinct (of the flesh) is to run and hide from God (like Adam and Eve). Rather, Jesus is telling us we should run to God for comfort not run away from Him.

We said that being deeply grieved over our sin leads us to repentance (change in direction) and should cause us to seek God to ask for His grace and mercy.

When we put these first two Beatitudes all together, with the overall context they are in, Jesus is telling us that we are all supremely joyful when we acknowledge our own sin and are deeply grieved in our heart over it because we are called to God's side to receive His grace and comfort in the Kingdom of Heaven.

This was unheard of and was amazingly good news for the Disciples and the others who were there listening.

We imagined what it must have been like to grow up in the Jewish religion and culture of rules and good works and having our minds completely blown in just these first two verses of Jesus' teaching. We would want to hear more.

This was just the beginning. We'll be looking at more of the Beatitudes next time.

Upcoming Events

Keep your eye out as we continue to restart other Youth activities and events.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed day,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry