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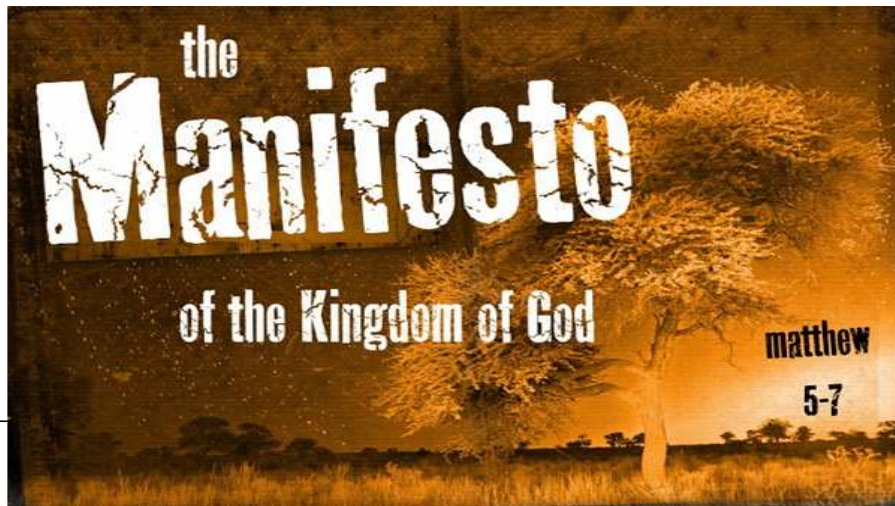
Sunday Morning

September 3, 2006

### MATTHEW 5 pt.2

#### REVIEW:

Last week we began our study of Matthew 5 (in which we have the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (5-7) ) by emphasizing the backdrop for these words of Jesus.



*Matthew 4:23 (ESV) And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom...*

Perhaps the message we are going to study may have been THE sermon He would bring to the people - Luke's Sermon on the Plain.

*Matthew 4:23-25 (ESV)...and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.*

It was as Jesus saw all of this pandemonium, that we read.

*Matthew 5:1 (ESV) Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.*

Jesus KNEW that there were those who were simply there for the side show. They were there for the pandemonium, just for the power that was being demonstrated. But Jesus also knew that as he went up onto the mountain there would be those who would take the time to walk uphill, to sit and to hear Him, to follow Him, whatever that cost was.

WE NOTED that there were other amazing uphill moments in the ministry of Jesus - moments where His followers heard the most incredible things.

- The Mt. of Transfiguration - There the glory of His divinity shined through the veil of His humanity
- Then there was the discourse on the Mt. of Olives. - Jesus told them how history would roll out up to 2nd coming
- The Great Commission was given on the next mountain.

**WE MADE THIS KEY APPLICATION: The Christian life involves a lot of UPHILL MOMENTS.**

Moments when He gives you the choice to coast along on the flats, be content with just watching what He is doing around you.... Or you can count the cost, WALK UP HILL, if you would, to be near to Him, hear Him and learn of Him! You can be like the people who just wanted to be spectators, or you can embrace the trial.... Embrace the challenge and the cost and MEET Jesus up the hill!!

SO HERE JESUS DELIBERATELY withdraws Himself in order to separate those who were casual followers.... Those who were there just for the side show of the whole miraculous ministry from those who were longing in their hearts to KNOW Jesus. Those who not only saw the power, but they heard the words that the kingdom had drawn close. They wanted to know -How do I ENTER into this kingdom? How do I LIVE in the Kingdom?

*Matthew 5:2 (ESV) And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying:*

**REMEMBER** - The Sermon on the Mount was NOT addressed to the world at large as a guideline for living - That if a man or woman adhered to these teachings it would make them a Christian or gain them entrance into heaven..... In fact - If you take the Sermon on the Mount seriously you will find out that The Sermon on the Mount is impossible to live out. You find that God's standard of righteousness is unattainable! The Sermon on the Mt. is the DESCRIPTION of the CHARACTER of the man or woman who is by faith in Jesus a citizen of the Kingdom of God....a DESCRIPTION of LIFE in the Kingdom.

*Matthew 5:3 (ESV) "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit...." or HAPPY are the Wretched*

**CRUCIAL INSIGHT:**

To be poor in spirit means to have a correct estimate of oneself.

**KEY POINT:**

You can NEVER have a correct estimation of yourself when you compare yourself with me In THAT light you might think that you look pretty good! By keeping close account of my faults and flaws you can start feeling pretty good about yourself, thinking, "I'm not that bad". But when you look at the Lord; His purity; His holiness; His righteousness; you must say, "Oh Lord, help me, woe is me, I am undone".

**CRUCIAL INSIGHT:**

POOR IN SPIRIT is the result of a true evaluation of myself; not in the light of men, but in the light of God. Poverty of spirit is coming to the realization that before a holy God you are SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT. The man who truly sees God, truly sees himself.

“Poor in spirit” is the exact opposite of the world’s attitudes of self-praise, self-assertion and self-esteem. The reason why Jesus gives this as the FIRST character trait of the Citizen of the Kingdom is because you can only enter the Kingdom by coming to the realization that you have NO RIGHTEOUSNESS of your own, that you have NOTHING to win a place in heaven.... That you NEED a Savior!!

*Romans 7:24 (ESV) Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

*Job 25:4-6 (ESV) How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman? 5If even the moon does not shine, And the stars are not pure in His sight, 6How much less man, who is a maggot, And a son of man, who is a worm?”*

THAT is what poverty of spirit is.

### **CRUCIAL INSIGHT:**

THAT is the starting point for entering the Kingdom of Heaven. WITHOUT coming to the realization that you are a sinner who is hopelessly guilty before the Holy God of the universe, you will NEVER see your NEED for a SAVIOR!

*Matthew 5:4 (ESV) “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

WE NOTED THAT the kingdom of God is totally upside down from the world that we live in? In God’s Kingdom, the way up is down, the way to life is death, the way to gain is to lose! Here is another of those upside down principles - happy are the sad! Everyone in the world is spending their lives in an attempt to AVOID sadness and find happiness. We MUST note that there is a PERFECT PROGRESSION to the formation of these ATTITUDES that are found in the life of the citizen of God’s Kingdom.

### **KEY INSIGHT:**

My HAPPINESS is NOT found in the mourning itself. It is found in the promises of the Lord’s comfort and forgiveness.

*Psalms 32:1-2 (NLT) 1 Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!  
2 Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!*

This MOURNING does NOT come (and can NOT come) until I have been EMPTIED of self reliance and self-righteousness. It is when I have been EMPTIED and BROKEN that I begin to mourn over my spiritual condition. WHEN I have come to the end of myself, and I am finally facing the facts that I have no strength, no ability, no

power, no way of being right with God, I then begin to cry out to God. It is THEN ( and ONLY then) that I experience His MERCY. It is THEN (and ONLY then) that I discover His glorious POWER doing in my life what I could have never done for myself. THAT is a place of REAL HAPPINESS! NO ONE can take THAT happiness from me.... It is well with my soul!!

*Matthew 5:5 (ESV) Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

THE KINGDOM PROGRESSION CONTINUES - This new estimation of myself results in a new ATTITUDE towards GOD - MYSELF - and OTHERS.

BEFORE coming to know my true condition before the Lord I was the most important person in the world. All that mattered to me in that state was that I feel good. But now I have seen that I am sinner before a Holy God!! AS A RESULT OF KNOWING coming to a true estimation of myself - spiritually bankrupt - a NEW ATTITUDE is formed in my life..... MEEKNESS. Meekness is best defined by placing a hyphen in the middle of the word “meek”..... ME - EK!!

#### **NOTE WELL:**

This new attitude towards myself (Me - Ek) results in a NEW ATTITUDE towards others. From the vantage point of my spiritual bankruptcy I am no longer in a position to look down on anyone. Rather than looking DOWN on people I begin to esteem them ABOVE myself. I begin - as the trend in my life - to place their needs before my own.....

#### **KEY APPLICATION:**

You can KNOW whether or not you have come to the place of being “poor in spirit” by your attitude towards others - “meekness”.

#### **CRUCIAL INSIGHT:**

Meekness not only changes my attitude concerning myself, and my attitude towards others.... It is primarily a change of attitude towards God!!

#### **KEY QUESTION:**

Do we understand that meekness truly is? Think first about what it isn't. It is not a naturally passive or indifferent temperament. Meekness is not indecision, or laziness, or feminine fragility, or loose sentimentalism, or indifference, or affable neutrality. Meekness is most emphatically not weakness.

**EXAMPLE:** Do you remember who was the meekest man in the Old Testament?

*Numbers 12:3 KJV Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.*

When I think of Moses I do NOT picture him as some limp-wristed, “whatever!! limp-wristed” kind of a guy. The picture that comes to my mind is more like Michelangelo’s sculpture of Moses. A virile, energetic, take charge kind of a man. Think of him slaying the Egyptian, smashing the tablets of stone on which were inscribed the 10 commandments, grinding the golden calf to a powder, scattering it on the water and making the Israelites drink it. Not a hint of weakness in that man!

### KEY INSIGHT:

This word translated “meek” was used by the Greeks to describe a horse that had been broken. It refers to power under control.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones called it the TAMING OF THE LION. How appropriate when we think of Jesus! The Lord Jesus was the Lamb of God, and when we think of lambs we think of meekness (and perhaps weakness). But He was also the Lion of Judah. Though He possessed all power in heaven and earth He was Under control.... SUBMITTED ALWAYS TO THE FATHER. Thus He could say,

*Matthew 11:29, (KJV)“...I am meek and lowly in heart...” ).*

### KEY INSIGHT:

Meekness is the trademark of the man or woman who has submitted themselves to the will of the father. This means that the meek person never needs to demand their rights. This means that the meek person does not have to have everything done their way. Like Jesus, they are willing to deny self in order to submit to the final authority and rule of the Father.

**EXAMPLE:** Saul of Tarsus..... “What would YOU have me to do?” Following this change of attitude towards the Lord we can understand the statement that the MEEK shall inherit the earth.

From Genesis 3 forward this planet has been disgraced by rebellion against God. Thus, for the Lord to restore the earth to it’s original divine purpose implies that man will be restored to His original relationship with God. God is going to do that. And when He does wars will cease and men will dwell together in truth, righteousness, justice, and peace because they will be submitted to the Prince of Peace!! God’s government is coming, and those who are His children will inherit the earth.... Hence the statement that the MEEK shall inherit the earth.

In Matthew 25:34 (ESV) Jesus said,

*Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

The Book of Revelation speaks concerning the believer saying,

*Revelation 20:6 (ESV) Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

What a glorious place the earth will be. We will see the earth, as God had originally intended it.

### **KEY OBSERVATION:**

Up to this point the progression has followed the line of EMPTYING. God has brought the individual to the realization that they are spiritually bankrupt. They have been so broken over that reality that they have cried out to God for mercy and grace (That is always the place of blessing). Having been emptied of self reliance and self righteousness they now have a different attitude towards their fellow man and towards God - Meekness.

NOW - As we follow this Kingdom Progression we come to a transition. **We go from being EMPTIED to being FILLED.**

*Matthew 5:6 (ESV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

### **KEY OBSERVATION:**

AFTER the EMPTYING comes the FILLING. AFTER the first three you BEGIN to HUNGER for the things of God. Before coming to Jesus you had a hunger and thirst for temporal things, things that could not give you life. You gluttoned yourself with them, but they never satisfied!

### **KEY INSIGHT:**

But when you meet Jesus He empties you of the stuff that kept you from real life and you now have a deep, innate hunger and thirst for the things of God.

*Colossians 3:1-2 (NLT) Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. {2} Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth.*

### **HERE'S THE POINT:**

Once you have been emptied of self-righteousness you begin to long for real righteousness. Time and again the Bible refers to God as being RIGHTEOUS. Thus, to hunger and thirst for righteousness is really to hunger and thirst for more of this righteous God in your life. Your heart begins to love the things that He loves, you heart begins to dislike the things that He dislikes. In other words, you have an innate hunger for HOLINESS. You have a hunger for MORE of God, Himself.

### **KEY APPLICATION:**

One of the greatest PROOFS of being born again is this HUNGER for God and the things of God. You can be going to church.... Belong to a denomination..... Hang around professing Christians.... But - Without this HUNGER for God, and the things of God, there is good cause to wonder if you are truly born again.

**EXAMPLE:** If a new born baby is not eating there is a problem. It is a the least SICK, or at the worst DEAD! When you are HUNGRY you GET TO THE FOOD!!! Blessed are the poor in spirit.... Blessed are those who mourn..... Blessed are the meek.... Blessed are those who do hunger and thirst after righteousness

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