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Sunday Morning
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Matthew 5 pt. 3

Review

We have been studying that event in the life of Christ known as “The Sermon on the Mount.” (*Matthew 5-7*). This is a message for those who were willing to FOLLOW Jesus.



“and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and taught them“

In it Jesus is TEACHING His disciples about the Kingdom of God. He begins this “manifesto of the Kingdom” by describing the CHARACTER or the NATURE of the Citizen of the Kingdom. He first describes the ATTITUDES that exist in the life of this person as the result of meeting God!

Emptied and Filled

We noted that there is a very important PROGRESSION in the development of these ATTITUDES.

KEY OBSERVATION:

In the first three Beatitudes the progression has followed the line of EMPTYING. Blessed are the poor in spirit - God first brings the individual to the realization that they are spiritually bankrupt.

Blessed are those who mourn - 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).

Blessed are the meek - Having been emptied of self reliance and self righteousness they now have a different attitude towards their fellow man and towards God - Meekness.

Hungry For Reality

KEY OBSERVATION:

As we followed this Kingdom Progression we came to a transition after the attitude of meekness. We see the disciple go from being EMPTIED to being FILLED.

KEY INSIGHT:

AFTER the EMPTYING.... you BEGIN to HUNGER for the things of God (like after the flu). 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! But when you meet Jesus He empties you of the stuff that kept you from real life and you have an innate hunger and thirst for the things of God.

Hungry For God

KEY INSIGHT:

Once you have been emptied of self-righteousness you begin to long for real righteousness. Your heart begins to LONG FOR and 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.

Isaiah 26:8-9 (NKJV) ...O LORD, we have waited for You; 9With my soul I have desired You in the night...

Psalms 42:1-2 (NKJV) As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

KEY APPLICATION:

One of the greatest PROOFS of being born again is this HUNGER for God and the things of God. You see - the Christian life is NOT merely about agreeing with Biblical principles or actively participating in Christian work. It is about KNOWING and LOVING Jesus!! HE is what the Christian life is all about. All of our Bible study is to the end of knowing and loving Jesus. All of our serving and giving is FOR Jesus. In the next three beatitudes Jesus begins to describe the POSITIVE traits of the disciple.

The Merciful Man

Matthew 5:7 (NKJV) Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

A Divine Attribute

KEY OBSERVATION:

The MERCIFUL man or woman is a HAPPY person. Solomon makes this same statement concerning the blessedness of being merciful -

Proverbs 11:17 (NKJV) *The merciful man does good for his own soul, But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.*

KEY QUESTION:

WHY be merciful in the first place?

ANSWER: Having obtained the mercy of God and forgiveness of our sins, so freely and completely, we should be more than willing to be merciful to all those who have trespassed against us.

Ephesians 4:31-5:1 (YLT)

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all malice, {32} and become one to another kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, according as also God in Christ did forgive you. (5:1) Become, then, followers of God, as children beloved,

KEY INSIGHT:

There is a JOY to be found in MERCY! The world, the flesh and the devil say, “Get even”, or “You can’t forgive them for what they have done to you.”

But the Lord takes JOY in mercy.

Micah 7:18 (NKJV) *Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.*

KEY INSIGHT:

This mercy is an attribute of God! We can see how this POSITIVE character trait in the life of the believer is tied into the blessing promised to those who hunger and thirst for more of God in their lives. The nearer you get to the heart of God the more merciful you become, because God is merciful. The more merciful you become, the more joy you experience. The joy that you experience in being merciful is due to the fact that mercy pleases God. You are blessed by God because God takes joy in your mercy.

CRUCIAL POINT:

Mercy is a mark of nearness to the heart of God!

The Pure Heart

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV) *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

A Divine Premium

KEY INSIGHT:

This beatitude teaches us that God places a premium on the heart.

KEY INSIGHT:

I think that we would all agree that the term - “heart” - refers to the center of the personality. It is the fount from which everything else comes. It includes the mind and the will.

Mark 7:21-23 (NKJV) “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, {22} “thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. {23} “All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

KEY INSIGHT:

It is because the heart is the place from which our life issues that God tells us to guard it.

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

A Divine Prerequisite

KEY INSIGHT:

This Beatitude not only teaches us that God places a PREMIUM upon the heart, it also tells us that PURITY OF HEART is a PREREQUISITE to seeing God. This verse literally reads - Blessed are the pure in heart for they, and they only, shall see God.

KEY QUESTION:

WHY is a PURE HEART a prerequisite to seeing God?

1.) ONLY those who are pure in heart in a judicial sense can ultimately live in the presence of God for eternity... THAT is why Jesus came.... To DEAL with the problem of sin!

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) ...when He had by Himself PURGED OUR SINS, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV) ...To Him who loved us and WASHED US from our sins in His own blood,

Titus 3:5 (NKJV) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, THROUGH the WASHING of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

2.) It specifically speaks of a state of heart that enables a man or woman to “see God” in the here and now.

The word literally means CLEAR or PURE. Think of a glass of perfectly pure and clear water. If one were to ADD anything to that water it would no longer be PURE.... It is now MINGLED.... It's clarity diminished. Put another way, the PURE HEART is an "undivided" heart.

Psalm 86:11 (NKJV) Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

KEY INSIGHT:

A Christian can See God like nobody else can:

The Christian can see God in History. The Christian can see the hand of the Lord in his/her daily experiences. (In tragedy, or in blessings)

KEY QUESTION:

WHY is that?

First of all, they have been born again and have the CAPACITY for seeing God and the things of God. Jesus answered and said to him,

John 3:3 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Secondly, besides having the God-given capacity of seeing God, the believer has the ability to SEE GOD in the here and now AS he keeps his heart PURE.

1.) PURE in the sense of CLEAR - unclouded.

He is able to CLEARLY see the Lord because he has not clouded his spiritual vision with things that are IMPURE or UNHOLY. (Sin blinds - like Samson)

2.) PURE in the sense of UNDIVIDED - unmingled.

When your heart is divided in it's affection, your ability to SEE GOD in the affairs of your life is diminished. The cares of this world are like cataracts on the eye of the heart. (Even good things, when pursued above God, can blind you to God and the things of God.)

CONCLUSION

How does one come to the place of being "merciful," and "pure in heart"?

- 1.) Enter through the door of "poverty of spirit".
- 2.) Allow God to turn your pride into meekness.
- 3.) Fill your life with His Righteousness (as you are now starving for it.)

Listen to this quote from Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in his [commentary on the Sermon on the Mount](#).

This is surely the most amazing thing that has ever been said to man, that you and I such as we are, pressed with all the problems and troubles of this modern world, are going to see Him face to face. If we but grasped this, it would revolutionize our lives. You and I are meant for the audience chamber of God; you and I are being prepared to enter into the presence of the King of kings. Do you believe it, do you know it as true of you? Do you realize that a day is coming when you are going to see the blessed God face to face? Not as in a glass, darkly; but face to face. Surely the moment we grasp this, everything else pales into insignificance. You and I are going to enjoy God, and to spend our eternity in His glorious and eternal presence.

Seeing God

Read the book of the Revelation, and listen to the redeemed of the Lord as they praise Him and ascribe all glory to Him. The blessedness is inconceivable, beyond our imagination. And we are destined for that. “The pure in heart shall see God”, nothing less than that. How foolish we are to rob ourselves of these glories that are here held out before our wondering gaze. Have you in a partial sense already seen God? Do you realize you are being prepared for this, and do you set your affection on it? “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” Are you looking at these things which are unseen and eternal? Do you spend time in meditating upon the glory that yet awaits you? If you do, the greatest concern of your life will be to have a pure heart.

Seeing God

You are going to see God! Do you not agree that this is the biggest, the most momentous, the most tremendous thing that you can ever be told? Is it your supreme object, desire and ambition to see God? If it is, and if you believe this gospel, you must agree with John, “Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” The time is short, you and I have not long to prepare. The Great Reception is at hand; in a sense the ceremonial is all prepared; you and I are waiting for the audience with the King. Are you looking forward to it? Are you preparing yourself for it? Don’t you feel ashamed at this moment that you are wasting your time on things that not only will be of no value to you on that great occasion, but of which you will then be ashamed.

Seeing God

You and I, creatures of time as we appear to be, are going to see God and bask in His eternal glory for ever and ever. Our one confidence is that He is working in us and preparing us for that.

Seeing God

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