

MATTHEW 5:1-6

BLESSED ARE THOSE... PT 1

THE BEATITUDES BEGIN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT WHICH WAS THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' PUBLIC MINISTRY, IT IS ALSO THE LONGEST SERMON WE HAVE RECORDED.

IN THIS ONE SERMON JESUS GIVES US A FULL LAYOUT OF THE LAW WHILE DESTROYING THE IDEA OF A LEGALISTIC APPROACH TO SALVATION.

HE SHOWS US THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO KEEP THE LAW, WHICH MEANS WE ABSOLUTELY MUST HAVE A SAVIOR.

HE CLOSES THE DOOR ON THE IDEA THAT WE CAN WORK OUR WAY INTO GODS GOOD GRACE AND ATTAIN SALVATION BY OUR OWN MERIT.

WHICH LEAVES DIVINE GRACE AS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN SALVATION.

THAT GRACE WAS SHOWN BY GOD THE FATHER WHEN HE SENT HIS SON TO DIE FOR THE SINS OF THOSE THAT WOULD BELIEVE IN HIM.

TONIGHT MY HOPE IS THAT GOD REVEALS SOMETHING TO YOU THAT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE.

MY PRAYER IS THAT IF YOU'RE CHRISTIAN YOU GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS GRACE AS WELL AS JESUS AND HIS SACRIFICE.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT A CHRISTIAN THAT GOD WILL USE THE WORDS TO OPEN THE EYES OF YOUR HEART TO TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

SO LET'S LOOK AT MATTHEW CHAPTER 5 STARTING IN VERSE 1

MATTHEW 5:1

5 AND SEEING THE MULTITUDES, HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAIN, AND WHEN HE WAS SEATED HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM.

NOTICE IT SAYS THAT HE WAS SEATED?

DOESN'T SEEM THAT SIGNIFICANT BUT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT WE UNDERSTAND WHY.

THIS WAS THE TRADITIONAL METHOD OF JEWISH RABBI'S, THEY DID NOT STAND WHEN THEY TAUGHT BUT RATHER THEY WERE SEATED.

THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE WERE USED TO, WHAT THEY WERE NOT USED TO WAS WHAT CAME NEXT.

THE WORDS JESUS SPOKE WOULD TAKE EVERYONE BY SURPRISE AND WOULD SEND THE PHARISEES INTO A FRENZY.

MATTHEW 5:2,3

2 THEN HE OPENED HIS MOUTH AND TAUGHT THEM, SAYING:

***3 "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.***

THE VERY SENTENCE JESUS UTTERED WAS COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO WHAT THE PHARISEES TAUGHT.

THE GREEK WORD USED FOR THE WORD BLESSED IS MAKARIOI

WHICH LITERALLY TRANSLATED MEANS HAPPY.

NOW THE PHARISEES TAUGHT THAT IF YOU WERE POOR IT WAS SOMEHOW A JUDGMENT FROM GOD.

IT MEANT THAT YOU HAD DONE SOMETHING THAT HAD UPSET GOD AND YOU WERE BEING PUNISHED FOR YOUR SIN.

BUT JESUS IS SAYING THAT IF YOU ARE POOR IN SPIRIT YOU ARE BLESSED.

THIS SEEMS ODD TO EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE.

FIRST, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT.

IT DOESN'T MEAN LACKING IN THE SENSE WE THINK IT MEANS.

BUT RATHER IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT AND YOU REALIZE IT.

GOD HAS OPENED YOUR EYES TO THE TRUTH, WHICH IS YOU ARE A SINFUL PERSON.

YOU SUDDENLY REALIZE THAT YOU ARE EMPTY AND COMPLETELY DEVOID OF ANYTHING GOOD.

THIS IS THE VERY FIRST THING THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

GOD OPENS YOUR EYES TO WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

WE WERE AT SOME POINT ALL SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING TO FILL THAT JESUS SHAPED VOID IN OUR LIFE, UNFORTUNATELY WE TEND TO PUT EVERYTHING BUT JESUS IN THAT VOID.

THE RICHES OF THIS WORLD CANNOT UNDO THIS TYPE OF POVERTY.

WE WILL USE ANY AND EVERY DISTRACTION WE CAN TO AVOID THE TRUTH WHICH IS THAT WE ARE POOR IN SPIRIT.

AND THE ONLY WAY THAT CAN EVER BE ALTERED IS BY THE CHANGE THAT TAKES PLACE WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

WHEN YOU CONFESS YOUR SINS, REPENT AND CRY OUT TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS.

LUKE 5:4-8

4 WHEN HE HAD STOPPED SPEAKING, HE SAID TO SIMON, "LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP AND LET DOWN YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH."

5 BUT SIMON ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "MASTER, WE HAVE TOILED ALL NIGHT AND CAUGHT NOTHING; NEVERTHELESS AT YOUR WORD I WILL LET DOWN THE NET." 6 AND WHEN THEY HAD DONE THIS, THEY CAUGHT A GREAT NUMBER OF FISH, AND THEIR NET WAS BREAKING. 7 SO THEY SIGNALLED TO THEIR PARTNERS IN THE OTHER BOAT TO COME AND HELP THEM. AND THEY CAME AND FILLED BOTH THE BOATS, SO THAT THEY BEGAN TO SINK. 8 WHEN

***SIMON PETER SAW IT, HE FELL DOWN AT JESUS' KNEES,
SAYING, "DEPART FROM ME, FOR I AM A SINFUL MAN, O LORD!"***

**EVERY CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD HAS EXPERIENCED THIS MOMENT,
THE MOMENT THAT THEY REALIZE JESUS IS GOD.**

**THE MOMENT THEY BECOME AWARE OF THE SIN IN THEIR LIFE AND
HOW EMPTY THEY TRULY ARE.**

THAT EMPTINESS THAT GNAWS AT YOU LIKE HUNGER PANGS.

**EVERY TIME YOU'RE STILL IT MAKES YOUR INSIDES QUAKE, SO YOU
DO YOUR BEST TO KEEP YOURSELF DISTRACTED.**

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT.

**THE BEATITUDES ARE VERY SPECIAL AND IT IS IMPORTANT WE
UNDERSTAND THEM AND WHAT THEY TRULY MEAN.**

**THEY ARE NOT BEHAVIORS WE TRY TO EXHIBIT IN ORDER TO
ACHIEVE SALVATION, QUITE THE CONTRARY IN FACT.**

**THEY ARE BEHAVIORS THAT ARE PRODUCED IN US WHEN WE
BECOME CHRISTIANS.**

WE DON'T TRY TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT SO THAT WE MAY BE SAVED.

**WE ARE SAVED WHEN WE REALIZE THAT WE ARE POOR IN SPIRIT
AND CAN'T BE SAVED ON OUR OWN APART FROM CHRIST.**

MATTHEW 5:3

***"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.***

**WE DISCOVERED THAT THE WORD BLESSED MEANS HAPPY, SO WHY
WOULD THE POOR IN SPIRIT BE HAPPY?**

**THE END OF THIS VERSE TELLS US, "FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN"**

WHO WILL BE IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

CHRISTIANS!

SO THE POOR IN SPIRIT ARE HAPPY BECAUSE THEY ARE CHRISTIANS AND THEY KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T IT!

CHRISTIANS KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT THIS LIFE IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

WE CAN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN ALL THE NEGATIVITY AROUND US AND THAT'S EASY TO DO BECAUSE THERE IS A LOT OF IT.

BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT BE OUR FOCUS, WE MUST FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS.

YOUR HEART WILL BE WHERE YOUR FOCUS IS.

IF YOU ARE ONLY FOCUSED ON ALL THE NEGATIVE THINGS GOING ON YOUR HEART WILL BE TROUBLED AND YOU WILL BE FEARFUL, UNABLE TO BE HAPPY BECAUSE YOU'VE LET THE ENEMY STEAL YOUR JOY.

JOHN 10:10

10 THE THIEF DOES NOT COME EXCEPT TO STEAL, AND TO KILL, AND TO DESTROY. I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

SATAN WANTS YOU SCARED, ANXIOUS AND HOPLESS BUT JESUS WANTS YOU TO LIVE IN PEACE.

THAT'S NOT SAYING YOU WON'T HAVE DIFFICULT DAYS BUT IT MEANS THAT WHEN THOSE DAYS COME YOU ARE AT PEACE KNOWING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.

THE NEXT BEATITUDE IS A RESULT OF THE FIRST.

MATTHEW 5:4

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE VERSES THAT GETS TAKEN OUT CONTEXT QUITE OFTEN.

IT IS USED AT FUNERALS TO OFFER COMFORT TO THOSE WHO ARE MOURNING THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT JESUS IS SAYING.

THIS MOURNING IS THE RESULT OF REALIZING YOU ARE POOR IN SPIRIT.

THIS MOURNING IS THE CRY OF SOMEONE WHO HAS REALIZED HOW SINFUL THEY ARE AND HAVE BECOME BROKENHEARTED OVER THEIR SIN.

YOU SEE THE BEATITUDES ARE UNIQUE IN THAT EACH ONE BUILDS OFF THE PREVIOUS, EACH ONE IS A RESULT OF THE ONE THAT PRECEDES IT.

ONCE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE POOR IN SPIRIT IT DRIVES YOU TO THE POINT WHERE YOU MOURN YOUR SINFUL LIFE.

THE BEST EXAMPLE OF THIS IN SCRIPTURE IS FOUND IN

LUKE 18:9

9 ALSO HE SPOKE THIS PARABLE TO SOME WHO TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS, AND DESPISED OTHERS:

THE WAY LUKE INTRODUCES THIS PARABLE TELLS US THAT JESUS DIRECTED IT AT THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

YOU SEE THE THING ABOUT SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE THAT KEEPS THEM FROM BEING SAVED IS THAT THEY THINK THEY DON'T NEED TO BE SAVED.

YOU CAN'T SAVE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T THINK THEY NEED SAVING.

THEY THINK THAT THEY WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD BASED OF THEIR OWN MERIT AND GOOD WORKS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD LIVES IN THIS MINDSET.

SATAN HAS CONVINCED THE MASSES THAT IN ORDER TO GO TO HEAVEN YOUR GOOD DEEDS MUST OUTWEIGH YOUR BAD.

YOU JUST HAVE TO BE A “GOOD PERSON AND YOU’RE ALL SET”

WELL PAUL TELLS US IN ROMANS 3 THAT NONE OF US ARE GOOD NOT EVEN ONE.

HE TELLS US THAT ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

THAT’S WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR.

THIS IS THE POINT JESUS WAS TRYING TO MAKE TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS BUT THEY MISSED IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

YOU SEE JESUS DOESN’T WANT YOU TO BE RELIGIOUS, HE WANTS YOU TO BE OBEDIENT.

JESUS TELLS US IN JOHN 14 IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL OBEY ME.

IT’S NOT ABOUT KEEPING A LIST OF RULES, IT’S ABOUT THE PURSUIT OF CHRIST AND THE EXPANSION OF HIS KINGDOM.

THE PHARISEES WERE SO CONCERNED WITH THEIR RELIGION THEY HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT GOD.

THE WORD RELIGION COMES FROM TWO WORDS,

RE WHICH MEANS “AGAIN” LEGION WHICH MEANS “TO BE BOUND UP”

SO THE WORD RELIGION MEANS “TO BE BOUND UP AGAIN”.

THAT’S WHAT JESUS CAME TO DO AWAY WITH SO DON’T GET CAUGHT UP IN RELIGION.

GET CAUGHT UP IN THE WORD OF GOD, GET CAUGHT UP IN PRAYER,
GET CAUGHT UP IN JESUS.

LUKE 18:10-12

¹⁰ “TWO MEN WENT UP TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY, ONE A PHARISEE AND THE OTHER A TAX COLLECTOR. ¹¹ THE PHARISEE STOOD AND PRAYED THUS WITH HIMSELF, ‘GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT LIKE OTHER MEN—EXTORTIONERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN AS THIS TAX COLLECTOR. ¹² I FAST TWICE A WEEK; I GIVE TITHES OF ALL THAT I POSSESS.’

HERE WE HAVE THE PERFECT BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF HOW NOT TO PRAY.

IF THERE EVER WAS A BOOK WRITTEN WITH THE TITLE “ATTITUDES THAT WILL KEEP YOU OUT OF HEAVEN” I THINK THIS PRAYER WOULD MAKE THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION.

SELF-RIGHTEOUS, PROUD, UNREPENTANT, HAUGHTY, RUDE, ARROGANT... AND I’M SURE THERE ARE MANY OTHER WORDS WE COULD USE TO DESCRIBE THIS MAN.

THE POINT IS THIS IS NOT WHO YOU WANT TO BE.

HIS APPROACH WAS COMPLETELY LEGALISTIC, AND HE WAS FOCUSED ON HIMSELF AS WELL AS HIS WORKS AND NOT GOD.

GOD DIDN’T GIVE US THE LAW SO THAT WE COULD MAKE OUR FOCUS KEEPING THE LAW.

HE GAVE US THE LAW TO SHOW US THAT WE CAN’T KEEP IT AND SINCE WE CAN’T KEEP IT, WE MUST HAVE A SAVIOR.

OUR FOCUS MUST BE CHRIST, IF WE FOCUS ON JESUS AND LOVE JESUS, WE WILL OBEY HIM BY DEFAULT.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT KEEPING A LIST OF RULES, THAT MENTALITY IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS CAME TO DO AWAY WITH.

GOD THE FATHER DESIRES A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

LUKE 18:13

13 AND THE TAX COLLECTOR, STANDING AFAR OFF, WOULD NOT SO MUCH AS RAISE HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, BUT BEAT HIS BREAST, SAYING, 'GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER!'

THIS IS THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF THE FIRST 2 BEATITUDES PLAYING OUT IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN YOU ARE POOR IN SPIRIT.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT REALIZATION.

THE DESPERATE CRY OF A BROKEN PERSON.

SOMEONE THAT IS COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY CONSUMED WITH GRIEF AND MOURNING OVER THEIR SINFUL LIFE.

THIS VERSE BRINGS OUT VERY STRONG EMOTIONS FOR ME BECAUSE I REMEMBER WHEN THIS WAS ME.

I VIVIDLY REMEMBER THE DAY I HIT MY KNEES AND COULDN'T EVEN LIFT MY EYES TO HEAVEN BEGGING GOD TO CHANGE ME.

BEGGING GOD TO HELP ME BECAUSE I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO HOPE.

I WAS LOST, ALONE AND HELPLESS.

AND IN MY GREATEST TIME OF NEED GOD SHOWED UP.

HE BROUGHT A MAN INTO MY LIFE THAT TOOK THE TIME TO DISCIPLE ME.

HE BROUGHT A WOMAN INTO MY LIFE THAT WOULD LOVE ME REGARDLESS OF MY PAST FAILURES.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY HE BROUGHT JESUS CHRIST INTO MY LIFE AND CHANGED ME FOREVER.

I KNOW ALL THIS IS REAL BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY I COULD'VE BECOME THE MAN I AM TODAY HAD GOD NOT INTERVENED.

THE MAN IN THE PARABLE WAS SO GUILT RIDDEN HE COULDN'T EVEN LIFT HIS EYES TO HEAVEN.

HIS HEART WAS SO BROKEN OVER WHO HE WAS HE COULDN'T EVEN COME ALL THE WAY INTO THE TEMPLE.

THIS PAINTS A PICTURE OF COMPLETE HUMILITY.

WHICH IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE PHARISEE.

THIS MAN STANDS IN CONTRAST TO THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS RELIGIOUS MAN.

PSALM 40:12

***FOR INNUMERABLE EVILS HAVE SURROUNDED ME;
MY INIQUITIES HAVE OVERTAKEN ME, SO THAT I AM NOT ABLE TO
LOOK UP;
THEY ARE MORE THAN THE HAIRS OF MY HEAD;
THEREFORE MY HEART FAILS ME.***

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE RELIGIOUS.

GOD WANTS YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR LIFE TO HIM FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN YOU LOVE HIM.

2ND CORINTHIANS 7:10

***10 FOR GODLY SORROW PRODUCES A REPENTANCE WITHOUT
REGRET, LEADING TO SALVATION, BUT THE SORROW OF THE
WORLD BRINGS ABOUT DEATH.***

NOTICE THIS VERSE SAYS GODLY SORROW NOT JUST SORROW.

THIS GODLY SORROW COMES FROM OUR SALVATION.

YOU SEE, BEING POOR IN SPIRIT AND MOURNING SHOULDN'T BE OUR PURSUIT, BUT RATHER WE SHOULD BE IN PURSUIT OF CHRIST AND HE WILL PRODUCE THESE THINGS IN US.

WHEN YOU ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN KING AND GOD OPENS YOUR EYES TO WHO JESUS IS YOU IMMEDIATELY BECOME VERY AWARE OF YOUR SIN.

YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE POOR IN SPIRIT.

THIS WILL DRIVE YOU TO THE POINT THAT YOU MOURN YOUR SIN AND BROKENNESS.

NOTICE THE END OF THIS VERSE SAYS BUT THE SORROW OF THE WORLD PRODUCES DEATH...

WELL WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

VERY OFTEN OUR SIN PUTS US IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

WORLDLY SORROW SUCH FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION YOU HAVE CREATED IN YOUR LIFE IS NOT GODLY.

THAT TYPE OF SORROW IS NOT PRODUCED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

IF YOU ARE MOURNING THE SITUATION YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF IN AND NOT THE SIN THAT GOT YOU IN THE SITUATION THAT COMES FROM AN IMPURE HEART.

THAT COMES FROM THE "THAT'S NOT FAIR" ATTITUDE, INSTEAD OF OWNING YOUR SIN.

YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE WHERE YOU ARE AS DIRECT RESULT OF YOUR SIN AND NO ONE ELSE'S, THE REALIZATION THAT COMES WITH THAT WILL DRIVE YOU TO GRIEVE OVER YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE IN WORLDLY SORROW AND GODLY SORROW AND IT WOULD SERVE US WELL TO RECOGNIZE THAT DIFFERENCE AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

DON'T WALK THROUGH THIS LIFE WITH AN ATTITUDE OF SELF-PITY BECAUSE THE SORROW OF THE WORLD BRINGS ABOUT DEATH.

BUT RATHER WALK IN THE CONFIDENCE, HOPE AND PEACE THAT COMES FROM KNOWING JESUS AS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

SOMETHING THAT JESUS DID QUITE FREQUENTLY WAS QUITE THE OLD TESTAMENT.

AS WE WILL SEE IN THIS NEXT VERSE.

PSALM 37:10, 11

10 YET A LITTLE WHILE AND THE WICKED MAN WILL BE NO MORE; YOU WILL LOOK CAREFULLY AT HIS PLACE, AND HE WILL NOT BE THERE.

11 BUT THE LOWLY WILL INHERIT THE LAND AND WILL DELIGHT THEMSELVES IN ABUNDANT PEACE.

EARLIER WE SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT LIFE AND LIFE ABUNDANTLY THAT JESUS OFFERS.

THAT ABUNDANCE IS TWOFOLD, THE FIRST ASPECT IS THE PRESENT TIME IN WHICH WE LIVE.

THE ABUNDANCE OF LIFE WE EXPERIENCE NOW IS AN ABUNDANCE OF PEACE AND JOY IN KNOWING THAT THERE IS QUICKLY APPROACHING A DAY THAT WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO BEAR ANY MORE PAIN OR SUFFERING.

THE SECOND ASPECT OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE JESUS OFFERS IS WHAT IS SPOKEN OF IN THE PSALM WE JUST READ AS WELL AS IN MATTHEW 5:5 THE THIRD BEATITUDE.

MATTHEW 5:5

5 BLESSED ARE THE ^{lo}LOWLY, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

WE CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE ABUNDANT LIFE WE WILL EXPERIENCE AFTER WE LEAVE THIS LIFE.

TO BE FOREVER AT PEACE AND IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR FOR ETERNITY IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN'T EVEN FATHOM.

EARLIER WE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE GREEK WORD BLESSED IS LITERALLY TRANSLATED AS HAPPY.

AS WE LOOK AT EACH ONE OF THESE BEATITUDES IT'S HARD FOR THE NONBELIEVER TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN BE HAPPY IF WE EMBODY ALL THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT JESUS TALKS ABOUT.

THIS ONE SPECIFICALLY SAYS "HAPPY ARE THE LOWLY"

THIS WORD LOWLY IS TRANSLATED INTO SEVERAL DIFFERENT WORDS, IT CAN ALSO BE MEEK OR HUMBLE.

NOW MOST OF US AS CHRISTIANS KNOW AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMBLE.

BUT MEEK IS ONE OF THOSE WORDS THAT IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD.

IT DOESN'T MEAN WEAK OR COWARDLY.

MEEK MEANS TO EXERCISE SUPREME SELF-CONTROL BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE TO NEVER BE COWARDS, WE ARE TO NEVER RUN FROM THE DIFFICULT THINGS IN LIFE OR IN SCRIPTURE BUT RATHER EMBRACE THEM AND LIVE THEM OUT.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN SCRIPTURE.

JOSHUA 1:9

9 HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! DO NOT BE IN DREAD OR BE DISMAYED, FOR YAHWEH YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."

PSALM 31:24

24 BE STRONG AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE, ALL YOU WHO WAIT FOR YAHWEH.

1ST CORINTHIANS 16:13, 14

13 WATCH, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, BE BRAVE, BE STRONG. 14 LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE WITH LOVE.

I LOVE HOW PAUL ALWAYS POINTS BACK TO LOVE.

AND JUST SO WE KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT MEEKNESS IN NO WAY MEANS WEAK OR COWARDICE,

REVELATION 21:7,8

7 HE WHO OVERCOMES [D] SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS, AND I WILL BE HIS GOD AND HE SHALL BE MY SON. 8 BUT THE COWARDLY, [E] UNBELIEVING, ABOMINABLE, MURDERERS, SEXUALLY IMMORAL, SORCERERS, IDOLATERS, AND ALL LIARS SHALL HAVE THEIR PART IN THE LAKE WHICH BURNS WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE CULTURE WE LIVE IN TODAY IS WE ARE TOLD THAT IF WE SAY THINGS THAT ARE HURTFUL TO PEOPLE THAT WE DON'T LOVE THEM OR WE'RE JUST BEING CONFRONTATIONAL.

SATAN HAS CREATED A CULTURE OF COWARDICE, A CULTURE WHERE CHRISTIANS ARE AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR BIBLICAL TRUTHS IN FEAR OF BEING CALLED INTOLERANT.

LOVE AND TOLERANCE ARE 2 COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS.

I LOVE MY CHILDREN BUT I DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE TOLERATE BAD BEHAVIOR OR DISRESPECT FROM THEM.

WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CALLED TO LOVE EVERYONE, BUT ONE OF THE GREATEST FORMS OF LOVE IS TRUTH.

SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO LOVE PEOPLE ENOUGH TO HURT THEIR FEELINGS.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE SPEAK DOWN TO PEOPLE OR TREAT THEM WITH CONTEMPT.

THE OTHER SYNONYM FOR LOWLY IS HUMILITY.

HUMILITY AND LOVE GO HAND IN HAND.

IF YOU CAN COME TO SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT FROM A PLACE OF PURE HUMILITY AND DEEP LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR THEM WHEN ADDRESSING SIN, YOU ACCOMPLISH A LOT MORE THAN IF YOU ARE DEMEANING AND JUDGMENTAL.

OUR APPROACH IS EVERYTHING, AND THE REASON WE CAN COME TO THEM WITH A HUMBLE, GENTLE SPIRIT IS BECAUSE THAT'S HOW JESUS CAME TO US.

HE HUMBLING HIMSELF AND CAME DOWN FROM HIS THRONE TO SAVE US,

HE LIVED A LIFE OF HARD WORK AND VERY LITTLE POSSESSIONS.

OUR KING SAID

LUKE 9:58

58 AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, "FOXES HAVE HOLES AND BIRDS OF THE AIR HAVE NESTS, BUT THE SON OF MAN HAS NOWHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD."

THIS IS WHY AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN APPROACH EVERY SITUATION WITH COMPLETE HUMILITY BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US.

MATTHEW 5:6

***BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.***

**WHAT DO HUNGRY PEOPLE DO?
THEY EAT!**

**WHAT DO THIRSTY PEOPLE DO?
THEY DRINK!**

JOHN 6:48-51

48 I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. 49 YOUR FATHERS ATE THE MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS, AND THEY DIED. 50 THIS IS THE BREAD WHICH COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN, SO THAT ONE MAY EAT OF IT AND NOT DIE. 51 I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN; IF ANYONE EATS OF THIS BREAD, HE WILL LIVE FOREVER; AND ALSO THE BREAD WHICH I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD IS MY FLESH.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS SPOKEN OF IN MATTHEW 5:6 IS CHRIST HIMSELF.

**JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.
SO TO HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TO HUNGER FOR JESUS.**

2ND CORINTHIANS 5:21

21 HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN ON OUR BEHALF, SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WE SO DESPERATELY DESIRE AS CHRISTIANS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY WHAT JESUS DID ON THE CROSS.

BY TAKING ON SIN AND DEATH AND DEFEATING THEM JESUS GIVES HIS FOLLOWERS VICTORY OVER THOSE THINGS.

THIS HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT OF US AND CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED APART FROM GOD

WE DON'T SUDDENLY WAKE UP ONE DAY AND WANT TO BE RIGHTEOUS.

WHAT HAPPENS GOES BACK TO THE OTHER BEATITUDES.

MATTHEW 5

3 “[B] BLESSED ARE THE [C] POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

4 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

5 BLESSED ARE THE [D] LOWLY, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

EACH ONE OF THESE BUILDING UPON THE ONE THAT PRECEDES THEM.

SO, THE PEOPLE THAT HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST FIRST REALIZE THEY ARE POOR IN SPIRIT, ONCE THAT HAPPENS THEY WILL BECOME VERY AWARE OF THEIR SIN AND THIS CAUSE THEM TO MOURN THAT SIN.

THEN WE HUMBLY AND MEEKLY SUBMIT GOD, WE COME TO HIM AS LITTLE CHILDREN BRINGING NOTHING EXCEPT OUR SIN.

AT THAT POINT WE WILL BE COMPLETELY STARVING FOR THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT JESUS OFFERS.

JESUS USES HUNGER AND THIRST AS EXAMPLES BECAUSE FOOD AND WATER ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR PHYSICAL LIFE.

AND JUST LIKE FOOD AND WATER ARE NECESSITIES FOR OUR PHYSICAL LIFE, JESUS IS THE NECESSITY FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

JESUS ALSO SAYS THOSE WHO “THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS” BESIDES BEING THE BREAD OF LIFE WHAT ELSE IS JESUS?

JOHN 4:14

14 BUT WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL NEVER THIRST—EVER; BUT THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL BECOME IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE.”

WHEN GOD OPENS OUR EYES AND WE REALIZE WHO JESUS IS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DESIRE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE PROVIDES.

WE SEE OUR SIN AND IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND THAT WE MUST HAVE A SAVOIR, A REDEEMER AND THAT IS JESUS CHRIST.

JESUS WILL ALSO SAY THAT WE MUST EAT HIS FLESH AND DRINK HIS BLOOD IN ORDER TO BE SAVED.

HE USES ANOTHER REFERENCE TO EATING AND DRINKING.

THIS TIME HE IS SAYING THAT IN ORDER TO BE SAVED YOU MUST CONSUME ALL OF HIM.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST YOU BE WILLING TO DO EVERYTHING HE SAYS.

THERE IS NO ALTERNATE ROUTE TO HEAVEN.

THERE IS NO SHORTCUT

THERE IS NO PLAN B

THERE IS CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE.

HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

HE DOESN'T SAY HE IS ONE WAY; HE SAYS HE IS THE WAY.

JESUS LEAVES NO ROOM FOR SPECULATION OR OTHER OPTIONS.

IF YOU DESIRE ETERNAL LIFE, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT COMES ONLY FROM CONFESSING THAT YOU ARE A SINNER AND JESUS IS LORD.

IF YOU HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HUNGER AND THIRST CAN ONLY BE SATISFIED BY JESUS.

**SO THAT BRINGS US TO THE QUESTION OF THE EVENING...
DO YOU HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS?**

EVEN IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, YOU SHOULD STILL HAVE THAT DESIRE.

WE SHOULD HAVE AN APPETITE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT CAN NEVER BE SATISFIED.

WE SHOULD BE IN CONSTANT PURSUIT OF BECOMING MORE RIGHTEOUS.

ITS CALLED THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION.

WHICH IS THE PROCESS ALL CHRISTIANS UNDERGO.

IT MEANS TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS!

AND TRUST ME IT IS A PROCESS!

ROMANS 2:13

13 FOR IT IS NOT THE HEARERS [A] OF THE LAW WHO ARE [B] JUST BEFORE GOD, BUT THE DOERS [C] OF THE LAW WILL BE JUSTIFIED.

AT FIRST GLANCE YOU WOULD THINK PAUL IS PROMOTING A LEGALISTIC APPROACH TO THE GOSPEL BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL!

JOHN 14:15

15 "IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.

AS CHRISTIANS WE DO NOT OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS IN HOPES THAT WILL SAVE US BUT RATHER WE OBEY THEM AS A WAY OF SHOWING OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST!

GOD DESIRES OUR OBEDIENCE, NOT OUR BEGRUDGING SUBMISSION.

HIS DESIRE IS THAT WE DO WHAT HE HAS TOLD US TO DO BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM!

GODS DESIRE IS THAT OUR HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL DRIVE US TO OBEDIENCE.

**WHAT DO HUNGRY PEOPLE DO?
THEY EAT!**

**WHAT DO THIRSTY PEOPLE DO?
THEY DRINK!**

JOHN 6:53

53 SO JESUS SAID TO THEM, "TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU HAVE NO LIFE IN YOURSELVES.

**THE ONLY WAY OUR HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
CAN EVER BE SATISFIED IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!**

HE IS HOW WE ARE BLESSED WITH THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

HE IS HOW WE ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS.

SO WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS?

IT MEANS RIGHT LIVING.

DO YOU HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHT LIVING?

**OR ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE WORLD AND WHAT IT HAS TO
OFFER?**

**I TRULY HOPE EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM DESIRES TO BE MADE
RIGHTEOUS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

