

The Saved, the Sanctified, & the Serving

Sermon on the Mount Series

Sunday School, April 14th, 2024

Matthew 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

Am I Poor?

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- To be Poor in Spirit...
 - You realize that you are destitute of an holy, indwelling spirit
 - We are all born this way since Adam
 - **Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
 - Jesus is the Way the Truth and THE LIFE and no one comes to the Father but by Him (John 14:6)
 - Upon receiving Christ, we receive life and become joint heirs with Christ
 - **Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- 10** And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- **Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

- If we never find ourselves poor in spirit, we then will never find ourselves in the presence of our Creator

Do I Mourn?

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

- Once we realize we are poor in spirit, we can have God's spirit
 - When we have His Spirit we will be broken over the sin in our lives
 - When we turn in our brokenness to the Spirit, He then comforts us
 - **James 4:5** Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?
6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

- Our brokenness over sin waters the soil of our lives that God's fruit might be brought out
- **Psalm 126:5** They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Am I Meek?

Matthew 5:5 **Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.**"

- Jesus said that He was meek...
 - **Matthew 11:29** **Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**
- I've asked myself the question all week, "Am I Meek?"
 - So I wanted to know exactly what being meek was.
 - Meek: 1. Mild of temper; soft; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated; yielding; given to forbearance under injuries.
 - 2. Appropriately, humble, in an evangelical sense; submissive to the divine will; not proud, self-sufficient or refractory; not peevish and apt to complain of divine dispensations.

- Am I Mild of Temper?
- Am I Soft?
- Am I Gentle?
- Am I not easily provoked or irritated?
- Am I Yielding?
- Am I given to forbear under injuries?
- Am I Appropriate?
- Am I humble when I evangelize?
- Am I always submissive to God's Divine Will?
- Am I Not Proud?
- Am I Self-Sufficient and rebellious to God's teaching?
- Am I peevish and apt to complain of godly convictions?

- The answer to every one of these questions for me personally was...I am not meek.

- Being meek goes far past being humble.
 - Humility tells me who I am in view of Who Jesus is.
 - Meekness is my display of who Jesus is in the view of others.

Do I Hunger & Thirst?

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

- I hunger because I have the realization of a physical need.
 - My body in some fashion will let me know there is a problem.

- We call them hunger pangs.
 - I may have never truly gone hungry in my life as some have, I am blessed, yet have I have hungered.
 - When I get hungry I start thinking about past meals.
 - Favorite foods and deserts!
 - My wife's fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, or her Beef Manhattans with mashed potatoes and gravy.
 - (I think I might like mashed potatoes and gravy;)
 - I think of baby back ribs and French fries, or steak and potato.
 - I don't really think of salad much or you might say I don't think much of salad.
 - I love to reminisce of meals past and how they tasted and satisfied.
 - Now once I wipe the drool off my mouth, I then take action.
 - I will on purpose, provide and prepare myself a meal.
 - It may be that I procure the items to cook and make myself a meal, seasoned to my liking, and cooked my way.
 - Or I will ask my wife to prepare something for me, which she knows exactly how I like the things she makes for me.
 - Or I may just go somewhere and get something someone else has prepared.
 - No matter the course, an action is taken to fill my belly.
 - I get filled because I want to be.
- There is no difference spiritually speaking.
 - If I hunger & thirst for righteousness, my spirit in some fashion will let me know of my need.

- We call it conviction of the spirit.
- It is usually very faint for most of us.
- Did you know that those people in areas of dearth that suffer from starvation don't know hunger pangs the way you and I do.
- Their appetite has been starved and silenced for the most part, so when their body starts to cry out for food, they've learned to ignore it and go on.
- Sadly, this is the way most of us Christians are about our spiritual "hunger pangs".
- We are in a spiritual dearth and have learned to starve and silence the spirit's convicting us to draw closer to our Holy Righteous God.
- It's not very often that we take action when convicted and on purpose prepare a spiritual meal.
- Most of us are unwilling to take the necessary steps required to get something from God's Table.
- We don't want to put forth the effort to pray with a broken and contrite heart (hunger) and seek God to fill us with His goodness.
- If we allowed Him to, then the Holy Spirit might bring to remembrance some past spiritual meals that have been more than satisfying!
- The problem is, we have far too few memories to look back on.
- If we desire to be filled with righteousness, we will do what is necessary to be fed.
- If I get filled, it will only be because I want to be.

Am I Merciful?

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

- All who call on Jesus obtain mercy for the debt of sin they owe.
 - Praise God!
 - But what about after we've obtained that mercy from God?
 - God knows my heart, and showing mercy is a struggle for me.
 - Instead I lash out when someone tries to hurt me, or has hurt me.
 - Even those I claim to love.

- While I have obtained God's eternal mercy, why do I disregard His temporal mercy?
 - I don't think about being merciful because I don't see my need for mercy.
 - I am either too self-righteous to see that I'm still one who struggles with sin,
 - or I'm too carnal and unwilling to give up the sin I'm enjoying in that season and have no desire for God's mercy.
 - On either account I've racked up some sowing.
 - “Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”
 - I hate it when the crops from that sowing comes in.

- What I find wonderful about this verse is the promise of temporal mercy.
 - If I just show mercy, I will get mercy.
 - It's simple, but I still want to explain.
 - God is in control of what my sowing yields, not me.
 - Principle #9 in RU was, "When we give into temptation, we lose our right to choose. The consequences of our sins are inevitable, incalculable, and up to God".
 - So wouldn't I be wise to beg for mercy?
 - Well, I can beg till I'm blue in the face, and receive no mercy if I am not willing to show mercy.
 - Thank God for his teaching me to be meek, and hunger after His righteousness, otherwise I might think I'm something special,
 - and that I shouldn't allow you to treat me any other way.
 - Am I merciful?
 - No, but God is, and He can show me how give mercy to others, as He has given me.