

“The Blessedness of Brokenness” Matthew 5:1-6

Wednesday 5/15/19 – Jeff Lyle

As Jesus begins to release His sermon on the mount, He imparts to His hearers what are commonly referred to as the beatitudes. These are the core values of His heart and, therefore, Jesus’ Kingdom. While our tendency is to look at these beatitudes as rules to follow, that is not the intention of Jesus. He is simply stating these things as the things He values and what He imparts to His followers. With each beatitude, there is an attached reward. These first four of the eight core values that Jesus teaches deal with the inner condition of our hearts. Clearly, as we hear Him impart what He values to us, we are quick to discern that Jesus is completely different than the world around us and its values. He invites us to join Him in this life of distinction.

I. The Christian’s Spiritual Accounting (3)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

A. The potential - “Blessed...”

The word *blessed* means, literally, “to be enlarged”; Applied: Happy, contented, fulfilled – *Oh how happy are they!*

B. The prerequisite - “...are the poor in spirit.”

To be poor in spirit is to live with an utter absence of pride & self-reliance, understanding that we are nothing apart from the grace of God and righteousness of Jesus. It is the opposite of feeling proud, self-sufficient, competent & entitled.

To be poor in spirit recognizes that there must be:

- an emptying before a filling
- a pulling down before a rising up
- a breaking before a connecting
- a death before a resurrection
- the admission of guilt before the receiving of forgiveness
- a condemnation before a pardon
- a fear before a comfort
- an awareness of being lost before a desire to be found

C. The promise - "...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

It is not that we earn entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven by virtue of living as one who is poor in spirit. The teaching is that we can be encouraged that living as one who is poor in spirit is one of the validating marks that we have been brought into the Kingdom. Jesus is not teaching, "Do this, and you will get that." He is revealing that becoming poor in spirit is a validating mark of those who have been saved/forgiven/born from above. As we acknowledge our utter powerlessness to offer anything to the equation of salvation, it results in our becoming bankrupt spiritually. On our own, we are impoverished. This qualifies us to see our need for rescue, therefore we call upon Jesus and place our entire trust in Him. The understanding that we are lost apart from Him never leaves us. We DO NOT graduate from this reality. Because of this, the poverty of spirit is with us at all times as we refuse to ever trust in our own righteousness, abilities or spirituality. Rather than this awareness serving to defeat us, it actually liberates us to live with nothing to lose and nothing to prove. In this, we find ourselves blessed to be welcomed by grace into the Kingdom of Heaven.

II. The Christian's Heavy Awareness (4)

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

- A. We mourn for our own sins and the sins of our generation**
- B. We mourn for the ignorance of/rebellion against God's glory in our generation**
- C. We mourn (long for in earnest) for the return of the Bridegroom**

Matthew 9:15 - "And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast."

The mourning Christian is comforted because godly sorrow works repentance. Those who mourn over their own sin will flee it, those who flee it will escape it, those who escape it find comfort. There is a righteous heaviness, entirely rooted in confident hope, that will mark all believers who long for Jesus' return. We cannot be *fully* content while Jesus is away. We cannot operate in glibness or artificial glee. Christians will find that, at times, they will experience a deep, insatiable longing for Jesus that feels like mourning. This mourning reminds us daily that our greatest desire is not yet met (the fullness of our redemption resulting in being physically present with Jesus). His promises are what brings us comfort in the

present – we know that we shall see Him. When that ultimate event occurs for us, our comfort will be immediate and never interrupted again.

III. The Christian's Developing Attitude (5)

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

A. The definition of meekness - A gentle, kind, humble attitude.

Meekness is the logical outflow of life based on an accurate understanding of oneself. The nature of Jesus was seen in restrained omnipotence. He used His power and authority to better others and glorify the Father. His followers do the same.

B. The decision for meekness - We choose to be meek before God and before our fellow man.

As we intentionally put to death selfishness, posturing and carnal ambition, we learn how to live in meekness. Eventually, His meek nature becomes our own and there is no more striving to obtain this virtue.

C. The declaration of meekness - Those who are meek never need to advertise it, their lives leave us no doubt.

C. The destiny of meekness - “...they shall inherit the earth.”

What a paradox is discovered here. The ultimate ownership and rule over planet earth does not find the mighty, domineering, aggressive and intimidating. Jesus reserves it for those who lived in meekness. He brings dominion and inheritance to those who look to Him for their privilege and position. Those who scramble for power, position and property will not be entrusted with it forever. They will forfeit all that they lived for. Those who walk in the Spirit of Jesus will live with a meekness that seemingly denies them in the present. When all is said and done, these same people will inherit all that Jesus has reserved for them in His kingdom. The earth and all it contains will be given to the meek.

IV. The Christian's Kingdom Appetite (6)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

A. The desire for personal righteousness - Living out our spiritual identity. We cannot bear to violate our conscience.

B. The desire for relational righteousness -We are only at peace with God & ourselves when we are at peace with others.

C. The desire for undiluted righteousness - We long for the final fulfillment when we will never again fall short.

D. The desire for established, global righteousness - We long to be faithful to God's revealed standards.

Matthew intentionally worded this statement to indicate that ONLY those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will experience true satisfaction. We may fill our lives with innumerable things in the hope of satisfying our own hearts. Experience teaches us that even the best that this world offers will never fill the hole in our hearts. A casual Christian life does not satisfy us. Only when we yield to the Spirit of Jesus can we experience true spiritual satisfaction. The life yielded to Jesus longs for the things of God. Righteousness is the very atmosphere of the Kingdom, therefore we will long for it internally. Human nature always pursues what it longs for most. As we pursue righteousness, we will lay hold of it. When we lay hold of it, we will find the deepest satisfaction known to humanity. We will be delivered from chasing lesser loves because we will not wish to descend from the satisfaction, we have found in becoming aligned with Christ and His righteousness. This is the fulfilled, blessed and satisfied life.