

The Beatitudes (2)

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Introduction: Are you concerned with what is in your heart?

A. We noted last lesson that the beatitudes describe the component parts of the Christian's heart. (**Mt 5:1-12**)

1. When one has these conditions of heart he will be "blessed" or happy!
2. "True happiness is a continual state of mind, in contrast with the superficial happiness of the world which is enjoyment without joy and pleasure without peace." - Joe Corley
3. You will never find this peace from the advice the world gives! (**Jn 14:27; 16:31-33**)

B. Are you able to make the hard decisions in the Christian life?

1. Too often many choose the path of silence rather than be willing to step up and be counted out of a fear of consequences.
2. Remember the fruit of that kind of spirit! (**Jn 12:42-43; Rev 21:8**)

I. The sign of true Christian Character --- Meekness

A. What is meekness? (**Mt 5:5**)

1. The word used here "*parus*" is seen in that it lies between *excessive anger* (Gr. *origates*) and *excessive angerlessness* (Gr. *aorgisia*). It is true composure, i.e., the ability to be angry at the right times and never angry at the wrong time. Rightly so, the Greeks used *praus* (meek) for a tamed beast (a horse once wild, but now obedient to bit and saddle).
 - a. It is strength under control - submissiveness.
 - b. "There is logical order to the beatitudes up to this point: awareness of dependence upon God ("poor in spirit") leads to a true view of what sin is in all its ugliness ("they that mourn"). This leads to submissiveness to God ("blessed are the meek"). "Meekness" is therefore that disposition in man that makes him esteem himself as small before God and men, taking a low estimate of himself."

2. Moses is a great example of meekness. (**Num 12:3**)

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

- a. How do you respond to men who complain and murmur? (**Prov 16:32**)
 - b. A great test of meekness is your response to unfair and unreasonable people. Do you really trust God? (**Rom 12:21**)
3. Consider the fruits of meekness.
 - a. Related to humility (**1 Pet. 5:6-7**).
 - b. An ornament in God's sight (**1 Pet. 3:4**).
 - c. Makes one safe in the day of anger (**Zeph 2:3**).
 - d. It is soothing to all (**I Thess. 2:7**).

B. "Meekness means to submit to God's will in a mild and gentle spirit, even in circumstances of great difficulty." - Joe Corley

1. Submit even when adversity comes. (**Job 1:21**)

2. Submit even when we must make great sacrifice to serve God as did Abraham!
3. Submit when we are chastened of the Lord. **(Heb 12:5-10)**
4. How do you react when it is hard to do right?

II. The Christian's awareness of his true needs -- those who hunger and thirst after Righteousness (Mt 5:6)

- A. The words here express strong craving: Gr. *peinontes* (*peinao*), "to be hungry, suffer hunger, to be famished, to crave after" (Liddell-Scott). The same is true for "thirst," Gr. *dipsontes* (*dipsao*), "to thirst after, to desire strongly" (Thayer).
1. We do not know what this kind of hunger and thirst is like! This is the same word to describe Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness. **(Mt 4:2)**
 2. Here it describes a hunger that does not come naturally but rather one that is learned. God wants it to become overpowering in our lives.
 3. Hunger and thirst is a sign of life! What if one ceases being hungry?
- B. Fruits of this craving in our lives.
1. We want to know more about God and draw as close as we can to Him. **(Psa 63:1; Psa 84:1-5)**
 2. When we know God, we will hunger and thirst! **(1 Pt 2:1-3)**
 3. These will not run from Bible study and isolate themselves from God's people. **(Mal 3:16-17)**
 4. Rather than feeding our souls on lust and revenge and other things of the world, let us fill ourselves on the righteousness of God! This is a meal that will settle well in your heart.

III. The blessings of these beatitudes

- A. The meek shall inherit the earth. **(Mt 5:5)**
1. This is in addition to the new heavens and earth. **(Rev 21:1)**
 2. We as Christian enjoy the true riches of this life! Do you realize what you have? **(1 Cor 3:21-23)**
- D. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled.
1. "These words are very strong and graphic, originally applied to the feeding and fattening of animals in a stall."
 2. What do we feed upon? **(Isa 55:2)**
 3. This is not the false righteousness of the Pharisees! **(Mt 5:20; Mt 23:28; Lk 18:9)**
 4. We must cease the struggle of putting ourselves forward before we can ever find God's righteousness!
 5. What are those who find this righteousness like? **(Mt 6:33)**

Conclusion: We must avoid the terrible error of substituting the outward for the inward!

- A. You can be an empty person and attend all the services! In time the condition of ones heart will be known.
- B. On the other hand there is a great blessing to the one who has these qualities.
1. These men will not withdraw in anger but rather stay at their post to serve others.
 2. The peace and stability within their hearts and lives is truly a blessing only God could give! **(Psa 5:11-12)**