

BEATITUDES

BEATITUDES

LESSON 1

1. Matthew 5:1-12, "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding Glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

INTRODUCTION

TO EVEN A CASUAL READER OF THE BIBLE, THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMILIAR SCRIPTURES. WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THE "BEATITUDES" IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. AS WITH A LOT OF FAMILIAR SCRIPTURES, SOMETIMES WE SKIP OVER IT AND DON'T TAKE IN ITS INTENDED MEANING. WE SAY THE "LORD'S PRAYER" EVERY SUNDAY MORNING WITH THE CHILDREN BUT MANY OF US DON'T ABSORB THE CONTENT.

WE CAN READ THE BEATITUDES AND EXPERIENCE GUILT FOR SOMETHING WE ARE NOT. OR.... WE CAN EXAMINE THEIR INTENDED MEANING AND KNOW THESE ARE ATTITUDES THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL WORK INTO OUR LIVES TO MAKE THEM PART OF OUR CHARACTER.

IF WE WILL USE THESE THREE—INSPIRATION, INFORMATION, AND APPLICATION—IN OUR LIVES WE WILL DISCOVER THESE ARE SOME OF THE CRUCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN WALK, OR WAY OF LIFE.

IN THE JEWISH LAW THERE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, 613 LAWS. NO ONE CAN ADHERE TO THESE. THE TEACHING OF JESUS IS TO MOVE OUR HEARTS FROM EXTERNAL ADHERENCE TO INTERNAL LIVING.

2. John 4:23&24, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 4 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."

I. Poor in Spirit

A. Matthew 5:3 NKJV, "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

AS WITH MOST SCRIPTURE, THERE IS MORE THAN THE LETTER; THERE IS THE SPIRIT.

EXAMPLE: BREAD. JESUS SAID, "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD," "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE," AND UNLESS YE EAT THIS BREAD..."

B. BLESSED

1. COMES FROM TWO LATIN WORDS: “BEATI” AND “SUNT”—BLESSED ARE.
2. REFERS TO THE NATURE OF THAT WHICH IS OF THE HIGHEST GOOD.
3. “BLESSED” IS AN INNER QUALITY.
4. “BLESSED” ALSO MEANS “HAPPY.”
5. FATHER WANTS US TO BE HAPPY AS WELL AS FULL OF JOY.
6. 1st Timothy 1:11 NKJV, “according to the glorious gospel of the **blessed** God which was committed to my trust.”

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS INTO OUR LIVES THE BEATITUDES, WE WILL LIVE HAPPY LIVES.

C. LET’S FIRST LOOK AT THE “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”

THE “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” AND THE “KINGDOM OF GOD” ARE THE SAME; THEY ARE USED INTERCHANGEABLY IN THE SCRIPTURE.

1. Colossians 1:13 NKJV, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,”
2. THE REALM OF GOD’S RULE.
3. HE DOES NOT RULE THE EARTH NOW IN THIS SENSE. HOWEVER, HE CAN RULE OUR LIVES. WE ARE IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN NOW. BUT, JUST AS IN AN EARTHLY KINGDOM, NOT ALL OF IT’S SUBJECTS ARE SUBMITTED ENTIRELY TO THE CONTROL OF THE KING.

IF ALL OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WOULD OBEY ALL OF THE LAWS OF THE LAND, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR LOCKS ON OUR DOORS. THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR SIGNED CONTRACTS; EVERYONE WOULD DO WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD DO.

IF ALL OF GOD’S PEOPLE WOULD OBEY THE INNER LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD THERE WOULD BE PEACE AND HARMONY WITH EVERY OTHER BELIEVER.

4. “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”:
 - a. THE COUNSEL SHIP OF HEAVEN.
 - b. REALIZATION OF OUR ONENESS WITH THE FATHER.
5. Romans 14:17 NKJV, “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

THE “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” IS A PROMISE TO THOSE WHO ARE “POOR IN SPIRIT.”

D. POOR IN SPIRIT.

SOMETIMES WE USE “POOR IN SPIRIT” TO MEAN THOSE THAT ARE DEPRESSED, WEAK, OR LONELY. THAT IS NOT WHAT JESUS MEANT HERE.

1. TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT” MEANS TO HAVE EMPTIED OURSELVES OF ALL SELF-WILL. IT MEANS TO HAVE OUR HABITS OF THOUGHT THAT ARE NOT IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE WORD OF GOD TO BE TRANSFORMED. TO CHANGE EVERYTHING THAT CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

2. Matthew 19:21&22 NKJV, “Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

SOMETIMES WE “POSSESS” PRIDE, PRECONCEIVED IDEAS, CONFIDENCE IN OUR OWN JUDGEMENT ABOVE GOD’S JUDGEMENT, MATERIAL ATTACHMENTS, HOBBIES, ACTIVITIES, THE LIST GOES ON. BEFORE WE GET UNDER CONDEMNATION, LET’S UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE “GROWING IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.”

UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT SOME OF THESE THINGS ARE NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD; IT’S WHEN THEY INTERFERE WITH OUR PURSUIT OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

3. TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT” MEANS TO BECOME: HELPLESS. TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR DEEPEST HUMAN NEED FOR GOD AND TO GROW IN THAT LONGING AND DEPENDANCE ON A DAILY BASIS.

4. 1st Kings 3:6-9 NKJV, “And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. 7 “Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. 8 “And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”

4. TO BE DETACHED FROM ACCOLADES—JEWISH THOUGHT: RICHES, HEALTH, AND STATUS WERE A SIGN THAT THEY WERE BLESSED BY GOD.

5. HEBREW MEANING: A PERSON WHO IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON OTHER PEOPLE TO FULFILL WHATEVER NEED THEY HAVE. SOMEONE WHO IS SO POOR THAT THEY ARE AT THE POINT OF BEGGING FOR SURVIVAL.

6. OPPOSITE OF “POOR IN SPIRIT” =TO BE FULL OF YOURSELF.

OKAY, SO WHEN I AM DEVOID OF SELF, I CAN EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE ONENESS AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER???

I WILL NO LONGER VACILLATE BETWEEN HAPPINESS AND LONELINESS; HAPPINESS AND SADNESS; HAPPINESS AND ANGER, ETC.

E. HOW????

WE KNOW WE NEED TO READ, STUDY, AND LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD.

WE KNOW WE NEED TO PRAY.

LET'S LOOK AT ANOTHER ASPECT THAT IS SEEMINGLY HARD BUT IT IS REALLY NOT; IT JUST TAKES PRACTICE—**SILENCE**.

HOW MANY OF US IMMEDIATELY TURN THE TELEVISION ON WHEN WE COME INTO THE HOUSE?

HOW MANY OF US IMMEDIATELY TURN THE RADIO ON WHEN WE GET INTO OUR CARS?

1. Ecclesiastes 3:7 NKJV, "A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;"

2. SOME EXPERIENCES OF SILENCE

a. Isaiah 30:15, "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not."

IN SILENCE, QUIETNESS, WE GAIN STRENGTH.

SILENCE WITH GOD; ALLOW HIM TO SPEAK.

SILENCE WITH PEOPLE OF WISDOM

b. Psalms 141:3 NKJV, "Set a guard, O LORD, **over my mouth**; Keep watch **over** the door of **my** lips."

HOW MUCH WISDOM CAN WE GAIN JUST BY BEING QUIET?

c. DO WE NEED DIRECTION? Psalm 62:5 NKJV, "My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him."

3. NOTICE THE EMOTIONS DAVID EXPERIENCED IN SILENCE Psalms 39:2-7 NKJV, "I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; And my **sorrow** was stirred up.

3 My heart was **hot within me (I felt the trauma and elation)**; While I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue: 4 "LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. 5 Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah 6 Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy

themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, **(realizing the things we spend our life on are nothing compared to our relationship with the Father)** And does not know who will gather them. 7 “And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.”

4. IN SILENCE WE PROCESS THE EVENTS OF LIFE; GOOD AND BAD.

WHEN DAVID WAS IN DISTRESS OVER ABSALOM; DISLOYALTY AND TRYING TO KILL HIM. Psalms 62:5-11 NKJV, “My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my

expectation is from Him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; **I shall not be moved.** 7 In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And **my**

refuge, is in God. 8 Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him;

God is a refuge for us. **Selah** 9 Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie; If they are weighed on the scales,

They are altogether lighter than vapor. 10 Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery;

If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them. 11 God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: **That power belongs to God.**”

LET’S START WITH SHORT PERIODS OF SILENCE AND THEN EXPAND. IT TAKES
AWHILE TO BE SILENT IN SILENCE. OUR MIND RACES.

Review

Matthew 5:3&4, “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”

- “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”
 - THE REALM OF GOD’S RULE.
 - HE DOES NOT RULE THE EARTH NOW IN THIS SENSE. HOWEVER, HE CAN RULE OUR LIVES. WE ARE IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN NOW. BUT, JUST AS IN AN EARTHLY KINGDOM, NOT ALL OF IT’S SUBJECTS ARE SUBMITTED ENTIRELY TO THE CONTROL OF THE KING.
 - 2. ROMANS 14:17 NKJV, “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- “POOR IN SPIRIT.”
 - TO BE HELPLESS.
 - TOTAL RELIANCE UPON GOD.
- WORD OF GOD, PRAYER/COMMUNICATION WITH GOD, AND SILENCE.

II. Matthew 5:4 NKJV, “Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”

THE PROMISE— “THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.”

TO MOURN IS TO FEEL GRIEF IN OUR INNER PERSON, IN OUR SOUL—OUR MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS.

COMFORT MUST TOUCH THE SOUL—WE APPRECIATE IT WHEN LOVING FOLKS PUT THEIR ARMS AROUND US AND TRY TO BRING COMFORT. HOWEVER, NO MAN CAN TOUCH THE SOUL—WE NEED THE COMFORT THAT GOD GIVES.

A. JESUS PROMISED A COMFORTER.

1. John 14:16-18, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

2. NOTICE THAT JESUS SAID THE COMFORTER IS THE “**SPIRIT OF TRUTH.**”

3. THE SOURCE OF COMFORT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH.

B. WE WILL LOOK AT TWO “MOURNINGS” OR “SORROWS.”

1. SPIRITUAL SORROW

a. THIS IS SORROW OVER SIN.

b. 2nd Corinthians 7:8-11 NKJV, “For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

c. THE “COMFORT” OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN WE REPENT COMES FROM THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE.

1st John 1:9 NKJV, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

d. MANY TIMES, AFTER REPENTANCE, WE STILL REMEMBER THE FAILURE. LET’S LOOK AT A WONDERFUL EVENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT CONCERNING THE PATRIARCH JACOB.

- Genesis 32:24-31 NKJV, “Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. 26 And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” 27 So He said to him, “What *is* your name?” He said, “Jacob.” (CHEATER) 28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; (PRINCE WITH GOD) for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” 29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell *me* Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” 31 Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.”
- EVERY TIME JACOB/ISRAEL TOOK A STEP WITH A LIMP IT WAS A REMINDER THAT GOD SAW HIM AS A “PRINCE.”
- WHENEVER WE REMEMBER OUR PAST LET US NOT FEEL GUILT BUT LET IT BE A REMINDER OF GOD’S WONDERFUL GRACE AND MERCY.

2. SORROW IN LIFE.

a. WE HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED SORROW IN LIFE; DIVORCE, ABUSE, JOB LOSS, BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS, LOSS OF A LOVED ONE, ETC.

b. FIVE INEVITABLE EVENTS IN LIFE—AND GRACE.

- EVERYTHING CHANGES AND ENDS.
- THINGS DO NOT ALWAYS GO ACCORDING TO PLAN.
- LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS FAIR.
- PAIN IS A PART OF LIFE.
- PEOPLE ARE NOT ALWAYS LOVING AND KIND.

c. GOD GIVES US THE ABILITY TO FEEL PAIN; DEEP PAIN, PAIN IN OUR VERY SOUL.

d. IT IS GOD WHO CREATED TEARS.

- Ecclesiastes 3:4 NKJV, “A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;”

e. GOD HAS ORDAINED GRIEVING BUT THE GRIEVING OF A BELIEVER IS DIFFERENT.

1st Thessalonians 4:13 NKJV, “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”

c. WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE SORROW?

Psalms 84:5-7 NKJV, “ Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.”

ANDRE CROUCH WROTE A BEAUTIFUL SONG ENTITLED *THROUGH IT ALL*.

I've had many tears and sorrow, I've had questions for tomorrow, There've been times I didn't know right from wrong. But in every situation, God gave me blessed consolation, That my trials come to only make me strong. I've been a lot of places, And I've seen millions of faces. But there were times that I felt so all alone. But in my lonely hour, Yet those precious lonely hours, Jesus lets me know that I was His own, That's the reason I say that Through it all, Through it all, Oh, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Let me tell ya that I've learned to depend upon His word.

So I thank God for the mountains, And I thank Him for the valleys, And I thank Him for the storms He's brought me through. For if I'd never had a problem, I'd never know God could solve them I'd never know what faith in His word could do.

d. WHEN WE’VE BEEN THROUGH THE STRUGGLES OF LIFE, AND WE’VE LEARNED TO TRUST IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. WHEN “COMFORT” HAS CHANGED FROM THEORY TO EXPERIENCE; WE CAN THEN GO TO OTHERS.

2nd Corinthians 1:3&4 NKJV, “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

Beatitudes

LESSON 3

Matthew 5:4&5, “Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

REVIEW VERSE 4

TWO SORROWS: SORROW OVER SIN AND SORROW OVER THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN LIFE.

PROMISE: COMFORT.

COMFORT FROM KNOWING FORGIVENESS.

COMFORT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SOURCE, WORD IS THE MEANS.

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

FROM EMMET FOX, “IF THIS IS NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, WE ARE DRIVEN TO THE POSITION WHICH NO CHRISTIAN WILL CARE TO ACCEPT—EITHER JESUS WAS SAYING WHAT HE DID NOT REALLY BELIEVE, AS UNSCRUPULOUS PEOPLE DO, OR THAT HE WAS TALKING NONSENSE.”

“IF HE IS TO BE RELIED UPON, THEN LET US PAY HIM THE COMPLIMENT OF ASSUMING THAT HE MEANT WHAT HE SAID, AND THAT HE KNEW BEST ABOUT THE ART OF LIVING.”

IMPORTANT NOTE: DOING A ROOT STUDY OF THE WORD “MEEK”—THERE IS NO SINGLE WORD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO DEFINE THIS WORD.

1. TO ACCEPT THE WILL OF GOD FOR US AS GOOD, THEREFORE, WE DO NOT RESIST OR DISPUTE.

2. TO TRUST THE INTEGRITY OF GOD TO CARE FOR US.

3. TO SUBMIT TO HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT AND HIS ROD.

a. Hebrews 12:11, “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

b. Hebrews 13:17, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.”

WE’LL TALK ABOUT HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT LATER IN THIS LESSON.

B. OPPOSITES:

1. SELF-INTEREST.

2. SELF-ASSERTIVENESS.

3. OUR OWN AGENDA AS A PRIORITY.

B. CONTRAST:

2nd Timothy 3:1-8, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;”

C. MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS.

1. MOSES

a. Numbers 12:3, “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.”

b. Numbers 15:32-36, “And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. 33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. 34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. 35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. 36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.”

2. JESUS

Matthew 21:1-5 NKJV, “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage (Bay fa gay), at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 “And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

D. **TO BE MEEK IS TO INTERLACE WITH GOD AND HIS WILL.**

E. **“INHERIT THE EARTH”**

1. Psalms 37:11, “But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

2. GOD IS NOT IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS.

3. "EARTH" IS NOT TALKING ABOUT SOIL.

- Numbers 14:21, "But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."
- Psalms 97:1, "The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof."

IF YOU WERE A JEW IN THAT DAY, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN OFFERED A NEW LEVEL OF COVENANT. THE JEWS WERE WAITING ON THE MESSIAH TO FULFILL THE OLD COVENANT OF LAND.

- Genesis 12:1-5, "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."

4. WHAT WE INHERIT IS THE DIVINE PLAN OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES:
OUR WALK ON THIS EARTH.

a. "INHERITING THE EARTH" IS CONCERNING THE JOURNEY.

b. GOD HAS NO PROBLEM WITH HIS BEING PEOPLE BEING
WEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS.

5. THE GREATER INHERITANCE:

a. PEACE

Psalms 37:9-11, "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait (**INTERLACE—THE SAME AS IN ISAIAH 40:31**) upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the **abundance of peace.**"

b. REST

- Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. 30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”

- NOTICE: THERE IS A YOKE, BUT IT’S “EASY” AND THERE IS A BURDEN, BUT IT’S “LIGHT.”
- THE WORD “REST” HERE MEANS TO BE “REFRESHED”, TO BE “RENEWED”, TO TAKE AN INTERMISSION.

AT FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL GAMES THERE IS AN INTERMISSION, OR “HALF-TIME.”— THE PURPOSE OF THIS INTERMISSION IS TO ALLOW THE PLAYERS TO REST AND ALSO TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS. —JESUS IS ALLOWING US TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS FROM OUR AGENDAS TO HIS. THE RESULT IS “INHERITING THE EARTH.” OR, PEACE AND REST ON THE JOURNEY.

F. **WE TRUST THE INTEGRITY OF GOD TO CARE FOR US.**

HOW?

1. THE “WORD.”

James 1:21, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

“SAVE” MEANS TO MOVE OR ADJUST; TO RESCUE. TO “RESCUE” OUR MINDS, WILLS, AND EMOTIONS FROM OUR SELF-WILL AND AGENDAS AND TO MOVE US INTO THE PATH OF GOD’S GREAT PLAN.

SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS LEADING, HIS PROMPTINGS, HIS CHECKS.

Beatitudes

LESSON 4

Matthew 5:6—Adam Sigman

Sermon on the Mount 5:6

The beatitudes first represent Jesus then Us.

The Beatitudes offer solid truths for living as a disciple for Christ. While each beatitude can stand on its own, they aren't merely a collection of unrelated statements. They are linked in an unbroken chain, each one building on the previous truth.

The word blessed in the beatitudes signifies deep, joy filled contentment and an inner state of spiritual well-being

Righteousness speaks of right relationship with God and other people. The idea of a right relationship with others forms the link in the chain to the next section of the beatitudes.

Though our bodies desire food and water, our hearts long for connection and our minds seek knowledge and information, we have a deeper longing. And the more we follow Jesus, the closer we hold ourselves to his presence and His righteousness – the stronger this longing grows. We begin to ache for the forgiveness of all sin, the restoration of that has withered and died, and the full and final reign of God's Love, Peace, and justice on earth. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will not be left unsatisfied. They will be filled!

Matthew 5:6 NKJV – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Psalm 34:8-10 NLT 8 – Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! 9 – Fear the lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. 10 – Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing.

Righteousness:

☐ The term righteousness comes from the Hebrew word “tzedakah” and the Greek word “dikaioyne”, which both convey ideas like honesty, generosity, and justice.

☐ In ancient Judaism, Righteousness means “to restore to a right relationship,

vindicate, or acquit.

The Righteous are those who have right relationships with God and with others.

When we think of righteousness, most of us conjure up self-righteousness. Or maybe we think of people who always demonstrate the rightness of their thinking. But righteousness is something else entirely. Righteousness is all things as they were meant to be, in right relationship with one another.

God created the world around right relationship.

Go back to Genesis 1: Male and female human beings walk with God, and he creates them as partners who bear Gods own image and care for the rest of creation.

It's in the Garden that we first see righteousness, Humanity's good relationship with God and each other.

When Adam and Even chose their own way and eat from the tree, they chose to stop relating to God. Listen to Adam's response after God asks, we read in Genesis 3:11-13

NLT

11 – who told you that you were naked? The Lord asked. “have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat? 12 – The man replied, “it was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it”. Then look what Eve says in verse 13 – Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done”? “The serpent deceived me” She said, “That’s why I ate it”. She deflects the blame toward the serpent. Suddenly, man and woman become preoccupied with self-preservation.

How do I make face with the God almighty now that I messed up. They were only concerned about themselves. Previously, they walked in a right relationship with each other and God, now they hide from him and respond dishonestly to his questions.

We have inherited the desire for right relationships with things here on earth. We now have an appetite for personal gain. All we care about is ourselves.

Luke 19:10 NKJV – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus is inviting us to abandon our hunger for self-sufficiency and power. Jesus invites

us to be transformed by a desire for right relationship with himself and one another.

We also cannot become assumed with making sure that we are following all the rules.

Jesus confronts.

Mat. 5:20 NLT – But I warn you, unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teacher of religious law and the pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

And in Matthew 23 Jesus confronts a group of bible scholars who expertly adhere to the law while at the same time oppress the vulnerable. They are acting with evil while thinking they're the most righteous people in town.

Matthew 23:27-28 NLT

27 – What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites!

For you are like whitewashed tombs-beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead peoples' bones and all sorts of impurity. 28 – Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Jesus says that real righteousness points back to the garden. This way of life is not inspired by an appetite for personal gain but by a hunger for love that compels a person to be fair and just toward others, to see peace with all, and to generously give without restraint.

This is what Jesus means when he says. “Rather, first of all seek for his kingdom, and do what is right by him, and all these things will be added to you.

The message is at once simple and revolutionary. Jesus invites us to trust God with the substance of our daily existence, while simultaneously becoming consumed with hunger for the right relationship of his kingdom.

Romans 3:21-24 NLT

21 – But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

22 – We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for

everyone who believes. No matter who we are. 23 – For everyone has sinned, we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 – Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from penalty for our sins.

You Will Be Satisfied:

The term filled or satisfied in the beatitude means that the need of hunger and thirst will disappear. The verb is passive, indicating that God himself will fulfill our intense desire for right relationship with him. Salvation is His gift. We Can't earn it (Eph. 2:8)

When we trust the right relating with God and others is no less essential for life than actual food and water, Jesus will turn our lives upside down. There will be a radical change in our life. We will begin to live as if we are already in his kingdom right now, here on earth. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus calls us to push aside our craving for personal gain and become more like him. He promises for this way of life will not leave us wanting more.

That's the life we all want to have. If we hunger for that, we will be satisfied. Through his way of life and teaching, Jesus is slowly but surely changing our hearts, teaching us to love one another like he does and leading us to an incorruptible home where right relating, "Righteousness" will be daily living.

Hunger and Thirst:

Greek word for Hunger is "Peinao" which means to hunger, to suffer want, to be needy. To crave ardently, to seek with eager desire.

Derived from the Greek word "Penace" which means one who is so poor he earns his bread by daily hour.

"Thirst" Greek word is "Dipsao" – to suffer for thirst, or suffer from thirst, those who are said to thirst who painfully feel their want of and eagerly long for, those things by which the soul is

refreshed, Supported, and Strengthened.

John 4:13-15 NLT

13 - Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 – But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life. 15 – Please sir, the woman said, give me this water. Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water.

John 7:37-38 NLT

37 - On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! 38 – Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the scriptures declare, "Rivers of living water will flow from his heart."

RESULTS

Verse 43 – So the crowd was divided about him. 44 – Some even wanted him arrested but no one laid a hand on him.

John 6:53-56 NLT

53 - So, Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. 54 – But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, I will raise that person at the last day. 55 – For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 – Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

RESULTS

60 – Many of his disciples said, This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it? 66 – At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 – Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave" 68 – Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. 69 – We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.

Our mindset:

Psalms 42:1-3 NLT

1 – As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. 2 – I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him? 3 – Day and night I have only tears for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying where is this God of yours. Psalm 63:1 NLT O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you: my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 143:6 NLT – I lift my hands to you in prayer. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain.

Psalms 146 1-6 NLT

1- Praise the Lord! Let all that I am praise the Lord. 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath. 3 Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. 4 When they breathe their last, they return to the earth and all their plans die

with them. 5 But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord Their God. 6 He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever.

“Seeking his righteousness” Matthew 6:33 NLT – Seek first the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

“Righteousness, speaks of right relationship with God and with other people.

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to possess an active spiritual longing. “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. The servant who hungers and thirsts for righteousness is the same as the one who seeks God’s kingdom and His righteousness before and above everything else.

The servant is blessed because he or she experiences a satisfied heart. This servant can say,

“It is well with my soul”

In summary, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled could be paraphrased as follows, “Deeply joyful and spiritually whole are those who actively seek right relationship with God and, in doing so, discover that he alone can completely save

Beatitudes

LESSON 5

Matthew 5:7 NKJV, “Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”

REVIEW

THE TEACHING OF JESUS IS TO MOVE OUR HEARTS FROM EXTERNAL ADHERENCE TO INTERNAL LIVING. -----INTERNAL LIVING REQUIRES THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—AND OUR DESIRE.

5:3 TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT” MEANS TO BECOME: HELPLESS, TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR DEEPEST HUMAN NEED FOR GOD AND TO GROW IN THAT LONGING AND DEPENDANCE ON A DAILY BASIS.

THE RESULT—KINGDOM OF HEAVEN... THE COUNSEL SHIP OF HEAVEN...
REALIZATION OF OUR ONENESS WITH THE FATHER.

5:4 MOURNING IS OF THE SOUL; THEREFORE, THE COMFORT IS OF THE SOUL.

5:5 MEEK—TO RELINQUISH OUR WILL FOR GOD’S WILL...THE RESULT IS LIVING GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

IV. “MERCY” AND “MERCIFUL” COME FROM THE SAME WORD—ACTIVELY COMPASSIONATE.

SYMPATHY MEANS TO FEEL SORRY FOR SOMEONE WHILE COMPASSION MEANS TO GET INVOLVED. —WHEN WE ARE INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE’S NEED, GOD WILL GET INVOLVED WITH OUR NEED.

THIS IS THE LAW (NOT AS IN THE MOSAIC LAW, BUT AS IN A RESULT—GRAVITY) OF SOWING AND REAPING.

A. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRACE AND MERCY.

1. GRACE=GOD’S FAVOR.

a. IN SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8&9 NKJV, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

b. LIVING

2nd Corinthians 12:9 NKJV, “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2. MERCY—TO BE ACTIVE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS, EVEN WHEN THEY DON’T DESERVE IT. GOD GIVES US GRACE AND MERCY.

3. BAD SAYINGS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

a. ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY. –MEANS THAT A PERSON WHO HAS FAILED OR BEEN HURT WHEN TRYING TO DO SOME GOOD IS CAREFUL ABOUT DOING IT AGAIN—**AREN'T WE GLAD GOD IS NOT LIKE THAT.**

b. NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED. –MEANS THOSE WHO HELP OTHERS ARE DOOMED TO SUFFER AS A RESULT.

4. BITTERNESS IS A TRAP.

Hebrews 12:14&15 NKJV, “Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;”

5. IT IS SOMETIMES EASY TO GIVE MERCY TO THOSE THAT APPRECIATE IT...BUT HEBREWS 12:14 SAYS “WITH ALL PEOPLE.”

a. Romans 12:17-21 NKJV, “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

b. PAUL IS CITING PROVERBS 25:21&22

- Proverbs 25:21&22 NKJV, “If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.”

ARE SOLOMON AND PAUL TEACHING US VENGEANCE BY WAY OF GOD? NO!

In Bible times an oriental needed to keep his hearth fire going all the time in order to insure fire for cooking and warmth. If it went out, he had to go to a neighbour for some live coals of fire. These he would carry on his head in a container, oriental fashion, back to his home. The person who would give him some live coals would be meeting his desperate need and showing him an outstanding kindness. If he would heap the container with coals, the man would be sure of getting some home still burning. The one injured would be returning kindness for injury.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.

Matthew 5:8—Sherry Arthur

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

This is a promise from God to believers. If we have a pure heart, we will see God.

What does He mean, pure in heart? We have to look at what Pure means and what heart means.

Pure in Greek is Ka-tha-roes.

Pure -in this verse means Clean. Clear. Free from impure mixture. Without blemish, spotless.

There are 3 areas underneath the pure definition.

1. Physical-

Matt. 23-:26. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish,

and then the outside also will be clean.

2. Figuratively.

John 13:10. Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.

3. Levitical.

Romans 14:20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

Jesus always have several meanings when he preaches so that we can understand. He talks about the physical...about here on this earth. He talks figuratively....about himself and Levitical...about the law.

Jesus never just throws words out there. There is always meaning in every

single Word.

Heart - Kaa...dee..uh. It means; thoughts or feelings. The middle heart.

Here's the 3 areas:

1. Physical: The chief organ of physical life and occupies the most important place in the human system.
2. Spiritual: Man's entire mental and moral activity both rational and emotional elements.
3. Levitical: Principle in the center of mans inward life that defiles all he does.

Matt. 15:19-20. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.

3b. It is the sphere of divine influence.

Romans 2:15 -They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bear witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

Heart represents ones true character, through the seat of:

physical life. Moral nature and spiritual life, grief, joy, desires, affections, perceptions, thoughts, understanding, reasoning powers, imaginations, conscience, purpose and the will.

What does Pure and Heart mean in this scripture?

Pure in Greek is Ka-tha-roes.

Pure -in this verse means Clean. Clear. Free from impure mixture. Without blemish, spotless, being cleansed.

Heart - Kaa...dee..uh. It means; thoughts or feelings. The middle heart.

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

We have to be pure in heart to see God. Pure in heart has to come first.

It's not a natural pure in heart, it means pure as being cleansed. In other words, God is not saying, that if we want to see Him then I have to have a heart that has never been dirty or tainted. If this was the case then I would never get to see God. I've been too dirty.

To take it a little deeper into what heart means here in this scripture is this:

It is the desires or affection, perceptions or thought, understanding or reasoning, imagination or conscience, intentions or purpose, will or faith.

Therefore, when we speak of pure of heart, it is purity of actions, purity of thoughts, purity of desires and motivations, purity of proper reasoning.

If we want to have a pure heart, then we have to think properly and reason properly.

Just like the scripture says in Prov. 23:7a KJV For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..

This is why you have to watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. Prov. 4:23.

If you and I are going to see God continuously, then we must keep our hearts cleansed.

But how to do we do that? How can we have purity of our thoughts. Purity of actions, purity of desires.

1. First is with an initial cleansing of our hearts that comes at salvation.

We are under the new covenant of Grace that God's law is written on our hearts and we receive a new heart.

Jeremiah 31:33. NIV -

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV

1 will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from

you, your heart of stone and I give you a heart of flesh. 27. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 NIV

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. 3. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

If you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you do have a new pure heart.

You are a new creation. Now, if we know that we are a new creation and we have a new pure heart, then we need to remember that our old self is dead and we have been freed from the power of sin.

When we realized this, it will radically transform the way we walk and the way we live out our lives.

But sometimes, we aren't living this out in our lives because we don't truly grasp the fact that we have a pure heart. Because we remember what we used to be and instead of moving forward with our pure heart and into the promises of God, we revert back to the time we had an unclean heart. And that's who we think we are and we have a hard time coming into the presence of God and into his promises because we think we are unworthy.

We are either going to believe the Word of God, or we are going to believe in our own thoughts and revert back to the old man and left to our own devices.

A. Let's talk about the tabernacle. Only the High Priest could enter. And he couldn't enter without a sacrifice. First thing he would come to is the bronze altar. (Jesus sacrifice) Then to the laver for cleansing. Then we would

step into the Holy Place. Table of shewbread (Jesus bread of life) and the menorah or the candlestick (Jesus is the light). Then the altar of incense, (we have a great high priest that makes intercession for us).

Then he would come to the veil. And the veil was the entrance to the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was which represented the presence of God. Only the high priest could go through the veil and enter into the presence of God and that was only after there was a blood sacrifice and he had been cleaned himself.

Hebrews 10:19-22 ESV.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus. 20. by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21. and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22. let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We all know that when Jesus Christ died on the cross the veil of the temple that was the entrance to the presence of God was torn from top to bottom. These verses are talking about us walking through the veil into the Holy of Holies. We can't do this if we do not have a pure heart.

So this scripture tells us that we enter the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The tabernacle that was here on this earth is a representation or a picture of the heavenly tabernacle. That veil in the tabernacle is a picture to us., of the flesh of Jesus Christ that stood between man and God.

Because that scripture says, V. 20 "by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh".

The only way, you and I can come into the presence of God is through Jesus and his death on the cross. No man can come to the Father but by Him. Jesus

is the way to God, our High Priest.

So we can boldly enter into the presence of God because we have been cleansed, made pure by the blood sacrifice of Jesus that has been applied to our lives and it gave us a clean, or new heart.

Now, we can boldly go into the presence of God because the blood of Jesus has been applied and we have a pure heart.

You might say, "There is no way I can boldly enter into God's presence. I have done too many things in my life, I am unworthy, you don't know the things I think or do". Well, my response to that is...do you believe scripture or not? Do you believe what God is telling you?

He said in V22. let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

You have been purified and sanctified. You're not that same person you were before you got saved. No matter what you did in the past. No matter what mistakes you made. Because the old man is gone and a new man is in his place. A new man with a new pure heart who is welcomed into the presence of God.

We've got to get that deep down into our hearts and into the marrow of our bones because we keep reverting back to our old life.

For example. You've been working out in the yard, whether mowing grass or working on the house or working in the flower beds. Sweating, dirty, grimy. But that evening, you have a wedding to go to. You go in, take a shower, put on makeup, comb your hair, put on that nice suit or that fancy dress. And you look in the mirror and it's a complete transformation from what you looked like earlier. Now you are presentable to go to the wedding. But sometimes our problem is that we get all cleaned up and we look in the mirror and we still see ourselves dirty and grimy.

But when you accept Jesus as your savior, He cleanses you. He purifies you with his blood sacrifice and you are a new creature, with a pure heart and then you can boldly go into the presence of God and See Him.

Are we talking about when you die you get to see him and boldly go into his presence. That's the end result yes. But we are talking about right now.

Talking about tonight and tomorrow. You can be in God's presence now.

How? In prayer, in reading scripture, through the Holy Spirit.

But we have a problem. But what kind of problem could we have? We're saved, we're pure in heart.

Yes we are, but we live in a world, a physical world that is not pure in heart.

So we have to guard that pure heart.

What did we say our heart was? It's our thoughts, actions, desires, motivations, imaginations.

Notice it's not our conscience. Because our conscience is what tells us if something is right or wrong. When we grow we develop a conscience. When we get saved and become a new creation, we have a new conscience and that is the God conscience work of the Holy Spirit.

Having been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ from an evil conscience, how do we stay pure? In other words, how do we keep our heart from being stained from the stuff that is thrown at us in this world?

2. How do we guard our heart and stay pure in Heart?

It's through the Word of God. When the Word of God cleanses us, it cleanses us from wrong doctrine, from wrong thinking, and wrong behavior. The Word of God sanctifies us.

Ephesians 5:25-26

Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

John 17:17 ESV

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

The word sanctify has the same basic root as the word holy, and it means either holy or set apart.

So looking at these two verses, how are we made holy? Through Jesus and through the Word.

How often do you think such cleansing is necessary?

Now remember, we still have this flesh. We have to guard that pure heart daily.

I've heard people say, and I have said to people, if you can at least read a verse of scripture a day. How about, just 5 minutes. I can understand that thinking. I mean at least 1 verse is better than none. 5 minutes is better than none.

But is this selling God short? Are we selling God's Word short? Is Deut. 8:3 true when it says that "man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord?"

Is the Word of God true in 2 Tim.3:16-17 when it says that "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness. 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

By reading 1 verse a day or 5 minutes a day can I really present myself "approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

Why do we look around and see so many messed up lives? Because we have not esteemed God's Word more precious than our necessary food. We have not known His Word so that it has become a light to our feet and a lamp to our paths, therefore, we have walked in darkness and have stumbled.

We have been conformed to the world instead of transformed by the

renewing of our minds.

Devoted time in God's Word is vital if we are going to continue to have a pure heart.

Let's get something clear though. Can you sanctify yourself? Can you cleanse yourself? Can you make yourself holy? No. It's the work of the Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit works when we get in the Word!

It's his work in you to sanctify you. It's his job, it's his privilege, it's his business. When you get in the Word the Holy Spirit is on the job.

And it's his job to mold you into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Before long, the things you were comfortable with, make you uncomfortable now. Sitting in that movie theater and you always watch movies like this but there are some scenes that start to make you feel uncomfortable. And suddenly your convicted about it.

That relationship that you had with someone for years, now you start feeling uncomfortable with it and something doesn't sit right with you.

Don't fight what the Holy Spirit is trying to strip away and cleanse you from.

Stop holding on so tight to that thing because the Holy Spirit is trying to cleanse you from it to make you more like Jesus.

*Devoted time in God's Word is vital if we are going to have a pure heart.

A. You're heart is also kept cleansed and made pure through confession.

The bible tells us that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". 1 John 1:9.

To confess our sins is to agree with God that what we have done is sin.

We say, "God I have permitted _____ to rule me, and that is sin. I confess it as sin right now. I want to turn from that sin."

When we do this, we have a wonderful promise, because God is faithful and because He is righteous, He forgives our sin. He looks on the blood of Jesus and that blood cleanses us from sin.

The reason so many people can't really see God and don't have an intimate relationship with him is because their hearts are so defiled. They are so filled with the filth and muck of this world that they have no spiritual sensitivity. That is why it is so important for us to spend time being made clean every single day. Stand in the shower of God's Word and scrub yourself from head to toe. It will transform you and your life will be a sweet savor to the Lord.

B. Restitution.

If we want our hearts to be totally cleansed so that nothing stands between you and God, or you and others, then restitution may be necessary. We know why we need to make sure that nothing stands between us and God, but why do we need to make sure nothing stands between us and other people?

Because our reputation as a believer in Jesus Christ means a lot.

Proverbs 20:11

Even a child makes himself known by his acts, whether his conduct is pure and upright.

2 Corinthians 6:3

We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry.

We must make restitution.

Sometimes we live with a guilty conscience for something we had done in the past. Maybe we have wronged others in the past and still feel the weight of it.

Let's say, we are letting the HS do his work. We are reading the Word and the HS convicts us about a time when we wronged someone. And we heed what the HS is telling us and we sincerely ask God to forgive us. And He forgives us. We have made restitution with God. And that's great. But that person that we wronged doesn't know that. That person still knows that you still owe him \$500 and you're supposed to be a Christian. What should we do? We need to go to that person and make restitution. Ask them for forgiveness. Pay back

the money we owe them. Give back the weed eater we borrowed from them.

If we want to have a pure heart we must make restitution and when we do, God will not mention your sins to you anymore because you have done what is just and right. If that sin is mentioned to you again, you can know that it's not God reminding you because you took care of it, it is the enemy trying to pull you down and it will be easy to rebuke the enemy because you have a clear/pure heart on that matter that you made restitution for.

C. Imagination.

The things that we allow to possess our imagination can also get us into serious trouble. When we entertain wrong thought, they can eventually become footholds or strongholds in our lives and for the enemy to use against us.

Most of the time, the things that we let our minds focus on and imagine are usually negative things.

Remember what our heart means in this scripture? It is our desires, thoughts, motivations etc. This is where we get in trouble. Imagining things. It doesn't just affect our minds but pretty soon it affects our emotions, our heart.

God knows we deal with this.

Again, how do we keep a pure heart so that we can see God?

2 Cor. 10:5 KJV

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Colossians 3:1-2 NIV

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

When we spend more and more time in God's Word. Because when we do, we don't even entertain these negative thoughts. Because we are in the Word daily and the Word is life. And the Word is light.

When we do all of these things, what will happen to us? When we seek that relationship with God through the Word, then see Him reveal Himself to us and we see things through His eyes and we see and recognize Him through everyday circumstances and in our circumstances. We begin to see people as God sees them. Then we see Him in everything we do in our lives because we received a pure heart at salvation and we have maintained that pure heart through His Word.

3. Then our final reward is that we get to see God face to face because we stand before Him covered and cleansed by the spotless, perfect blood of Jesus Christ.

Beatitudes

LESSON 7

Matthew 5:9 NKJV, "Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God."

KJV SAYS "CHILDREN" BUT THE GREEK WORD IS "OUIIS"—SONS.

REVIEW

THESE "BEATITUDES" ARE NOT FOR HEAVEN, THEY ARE FOR NOW.

POOR IN SPIRIT— IT MEANS TO HAVE OUR HABITS OF THOUGHT THAT ARE NOT IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE WORD OF GOD TO BE TRANSFORMED. THEIRS IS THE ONENESS WITH GOD.

MOURN—THOSE WHO ARE DAMAGED IN THEIR SOUL WILL BE HEALED IN THEIR SOUL.

MEEK—THOSE WHO EXCHANGE THEIR GOALS, VISIONS, DREAMS FOR GOD'S.

HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS—ADAM SIGMAN

MERCIFUL—THOSE WHO COMPASSIONATELY GET INVOLVED IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS WILL EXPERIENCE GOD GETTING COMPASSIONATELY INVOLVED IN THEIRS.

PURE IN HEART—SHERRY ARTHUR.

TODAYS LESSON

VII. PEACEMAKERS: THREE AREAS

DEFINITION: LOVER OF PEACE. MAKER OF PEACE.

A. THREE VIEWS:

1. PERSONAL PEACE—THOSE WHO HAVE PEACE.
2. MAKING PEACE WITH OTHERS—NO CONFLICT WITH OTHERS.
3. MAKING PEACE BETWEEN OTHERS.

B. PERSONAL PEACE

1 Romans 5:1 NKJV, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. 1st Timothy 2:5 BBE (Bible in Basic English), "For there is one God and one peacemaker between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"

3. THIS WAS PAUL'S QUEST AND OUR MISSION

2nd Corinthians 5:18&19 NKJV, "Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

C. PEACE WITH OTHERS

1. Romans 12:17&18 NKJV, “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

2. PEACEMAKERS DO NOT RUN FROM TROUBLE BUT RATHER SEEK PEACE.

a. ADVICE—KEEP SMALL THINGS SMALL. DEAL WITH THE SMALL ANNOYING THINGS. TWENTY SMALL THINGS MAKE A BIG THING.

b. SOMETIMES WE CAN’T RECONCILE. WE DO ALL THAT WE CAN AND THAT’S ALL WE CAN DO. WE KNOW IF WE HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN OR NOT.

c. WE ALSO DO NOT RETALIATE.

- Romans 12:21 NKJV, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- 1st Corinthians 6:7 NKJV, “Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?”

THIS TAKES ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE IN CONTROL OF OUR LIVES— “POOR IN SPIRIT.”

d. THIS BEGINS WITH A DESIRE

EXAMPLE: I HAVE SOME DEAR FRIENDS WHO BELIEVE THAT SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS THE EVIDENCE OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT. I HAVE OTHER GREAT FRIENDS WHO ARE PARTIAL-PRETERIST. WE HAVE HAD MANY DISCUSSIONS AND HAVE GENUINELY DECIDED THAT OUR LOVE FOR JESUS AND EACH OTHER IS GREATER THAN OUR DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES.

D. Matthew 5:9 NKJV, ““Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”

1. “CALLED SONS OF GOD.”

2. “CALLED”—NAMED.

3. “SONS OF GOD.”

a. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “POSITIONAL” SONS AND “EXPERIENTIAL” SONS.

b. POSITIONAL SONS ARE ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS AS SAVIOR. HOWEVER, MANY DO NOT POSSESS THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

EXAMPLE: SOMEONE ASKED ME, “DO YOU HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED TO GO TO HEAVEN?” THE ANSWER IS NO. BUT THAT’S LIKE A BALL PLAYER ASKING WHAT’S THE LEAST I CAN DO AND STILL PLAY? THESE PEOPLE ONLY HAVE GOING TO HEAVEN IN MIND.

c. JESUS WAS DEALING WITH THESE FOLKS WITH THESE BEATITUDES. HE WAS TEACHING THEM, AND US THAT THERE IS A GREAT LIFE HERE FOR THOSE WHO WILL BE “POOR IN SPIRIT”, “MOURN”, “LIVE IN MEEKNESS”, “HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS”, “BE MERCIFUL”, “BE PURE IN HEART” AND “BE PEACEMAKERS.”

d. TO BE A SON “EXPERIENTIALLY” OR TO BE A SON IN OUR INNER HEART, SOUL, AND MIND REQUIRES THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE SOURCE, AND THE WORD OF GOD AS THE MEANS. WE CHOOSE TO UTILIZE THE MEANS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES THE WORK.

FINALLY:

E. MAKING PEACE BETWEEN OTHERS—WE SAVED THIS FOR LAST BECAUSE WE NEED TO RECONCILE SOME SCRIPTURES.

1. Matthew 10:34 NKJV, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.”

JESUS IS GIVING THEM A CHOICE OF EXPERIENTIAL LIFE AND JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS. THOSE THAT SIMPLY HAVE RELIGION AND NOT RELATIONSHIP WILL HAVE A BIG PROBLEM WITH THOSE SEEKING RELATIONSHIP.

2. Proverbs 26:17, “He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.”

SOLUTION—WE NEED TO SEEK THE “WISDOM FROM ABOVE” TO KNOW WHEN TO TRY TO RECONCILE OTHERS AND WHEN TO “MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS.”

3. James 3:17&18 NIV, “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

Beatitudes

LESSON 8

Matthew 5:10-12, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND VERSES 10-13, WE MUST LOOK AGAIN AT VERSES 3-9.

Matthew 5:3-9, “Blessed *are* the **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 **meek**, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed *are* those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed *are* the **merciful**, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed *are* the **pure in heart**, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed *are* the **peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God.”

LET’S NOT LOOK AT THE PROMISES. IF OUR GOAL IS THE PROMISES, WE MISS THE “BLESSED” PART. HAVING A GOAL FOR THE PROMISES IS OPPOSITE TO THE “BEATITUDES.”

REVIEW

1. POOR IN SPIRIT—TO BE HELPLESS OR TO BE TOTALLY RELIANT UPON GOD.
2. MOURN—THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR SOULS TORN BY TRAGEDY OR TRAUMA. THE TEARING OF THE SOUL SIGNIFIES A UNITY.
3. MEEK—THOSE WHO EXCHANGE THEIR DREAMS, VISIONS, AND WILLS FOR GOD’S.
4. HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS—THOSE WHO’S LONGING IS FOR A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS.
5. MERCIFUL—THOSE WHO BRING THE LOVE AND CARE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.
6. PURE IN HEART—THOSE WHO SUBMIT ALL OF THEIR BEING, MOTIVES, AND ACTIONS TO THE CLEANSING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
7. PEACEMAKERS—THOSE THAT SEEK PEACE WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND MAKE PEACE WITH INDIVIDUALS.

THIS BRINGS US TO THE EIGHTH AND FINAL BEATITUDE.

THESE SEVEN BEATITUDES, VERSES 3-9, SHOW US THE CONSCIOUSNESS, LONGINGS, INWARD NATURE, ETC. OF JESUS. THEY ARE IN DIRECT CONTRAST WITH THE WORLD.

A. THE WORLD’S GOALS ARE: (FOUND IN MATTHEW 4, THE TEMPTATION) THE DESIRE FOR SELF, TO BE IN CHARGE, AND TO WORSHIP THINGS. ALSO, IN 1st JOHN 2:16, “...the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...**”

1. FOR THIS REASON, THERE IS PERSECUTION.

2. John 15:18, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”

3. NOTICE IN MATTHEW 5:10&11

a. Matthew 5:10&11, “Blessed are those who are persecuted **for righteousness’ sake**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely **for My sake.**”

b. RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE AND JESUS’ SAKE ARE THE SAME.

c. PERSECUTION COMES AS A RESULT OF WALKING IN ONENESS WITH JESUS. NOT JUST CONFORMITY, BUT ONENESS.

PEOPLE CAN HAVE CHRISTIANITY AS A MISGUIDED PHILOSOPHY, OR A RELIGION. BUT TO WALK IN ONENESS WITH JESUS WILL RESULT IN PERSECUTION.

4 Ephesians 5:30-32, “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

B. PERSECUTION

1. PERSECUTION COMES WHEN CHRISTIANS REFUSE TO CONFORM TO THE PHILOSOPHIES OF THE WORLD.

2. PERSECUTION COMES WHEN CHRISTIANS REFUSE TO BE CONTROLLED BY ANY FORCE BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT NAMES THROUGH OUT HISTORY. IN THE GARDEN IT WAS “YOU CAN BE GOD.” A FEW YEARS AGO IT WAS “NEW AGE.” NOW IT IS “WOKE.” IT WON’T BE LONG BEFORE IT IS CALLED SOMETHING ELSE. IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME—TO BE IN CONTROL.

THE PIED PIPER: The earliest references describe a piper, dressed in multicolored (“[pied](#)”) clothing, who was a rat catcher hired by the town to lure rats away^[1] with his magic [pipe](#). When the citizens refused to pay for this service as promised, he retaliated by using his instrument’s magical power on their children, leading them away as he had the rats.

4. Revelation 2:13-15, “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 “Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.”

“Nicolaitans” comes from two Greek words: “Nico”, which means to conquer and “Laitans” which means people. The goal is to conquer the people.

5.. PERSECUTION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH MARTYRDOM. IT IS NOT THE DEATH THAT DEFINES A MARTYR, BUT THE CAUSE.

E. “SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU **FALSELY.**”

1. The first century lies: Cannibalism, Orgies (Love Feast—taking communion), Fanatics (they believed Jesus was God, was resurrected, and would return), Treason (they refuse to worship Roman gods.).

2. Today’s lies: Ignorant and Unlearned, Hypocrites (because Christians refuse to accept today’s morality as acceptable for Christians), Christians believe the only way to God is through Jesus.

F. PHYSICAL PERSECUTION HAS NOT REACHED AMERICA YET BUT IT IS GOING ON IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ON A DAILY BASIS.

G. PROMISES

Matthew 5:10-13, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

1. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN NOW, AND HEAVEN IN THE FUTURE.

2. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN—AN EXPERIENTIAL STATE OF ONENESS WITH THE TRINITY.

WE ARE POSITIONALLY, BY VIRTUE OF THE NEW BIRTH, IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WE ARE GROWING INTO BEING IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN EXPERIENTIALLY.

3. HEAVEN.

a. THREE HEAVENS IN THE SCRIPTURE: THE SKY ABOVE US, THE GALAXIES THAT REACH BEYOND WHAT WE CAN SEE, AND THE ETERNAL ABODE OF GOD THE FATHER.

b. IS THE ETERNAL ABODE ABOVE US? WHO KNOWS? DIRECTLY OPPOSITE US ON THE GLOBE IS THE INDIAN OCEAN. WHAT’S UP TO US IS DOWN TO THEM.

c. STRONGS CONCORDANCE DEFINES HEAVEN AS “THE SEAT OF ORDER OF THINGS ETERNAL AND CONSUMMATELY PERFECT WHERE GOD DWELLS AND OTHER HEAVENLY BEINGS.

d. HEAVEN IS A PLACE WHERE THERE IS NO SIN, NO SEPARATION. OUR LOVED ONES ARE AWARE OF US BUT WE AREN’T AWARE OF THEM.

e. STREETS OF GOLD, GATES OF PEARL, WALLS OF JASPER—
PROBABLY NOT. THIS IS NOT EVEN TALKING ABOUT HEAVEN. MANSION—THIS IS
TALKING ABOUT DWELLING PLACES.

f. Psalms 73:24, “You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward
receive me to glory.”

H. APPLICATION

READ AND STUDY VERSES 3-9 AND ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WORK THESE IN US.