

Sermon on the Mount Pt. 2

The "Be" Attitudes

Matthew 5:5-6

I. The Meek (Verse 5)

- The real biblical meaning of the word meek
 - Meek does not equal weak!
- The picture of meekness (**This concept will be countercultural**)
 - The main idea of meekness is literally a picture of strength under control
 - Meekness is the moral quality of humility and gentleness
 - A meek person is one who is willing to submit under authority. Namely Almighty God Himself
 - The picture is that a person who is meek does not worry about getting justice each and every time they have been wronged
 - Meekness is moderation. A meek person can have anger when others are treated unjustly, but not be angry when he is unjustly treated. Examples Mark 3:1-6, John 2:13-17
 - In modern language we simply would say "God's got my back" and I submit to His authority
- Examples where Jesus demonstrated Meekness
 - John 4:4-36 (Women at the well)
 - Mark 3:1-6 (Jesus heals on the Sabbath)
 - John 2:13-17 (Jesus drove out the money changers)
- The meek shall inherit the earth
 - We can only be meek, willing to control our desire for our rights and privileges because we are confident God watches out for us, that He will protect our cause.
 - The statement "they will inherit the earth" proves that God's chosen people do not lack for anything or end up on the "short end of the stick" in life
 - In reality a meek person has inherited the earth due to the fact they are content.
 - Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
- Through the first three Beatitudes we learn the natural man is not content with poverty, mourning, and meekness. These are only a blessing for the spiritual man who is a "NEW" creation in Jesus!
- The first three attitudes can be looked at as the emptying process!

II. Hunger and thirst for Righteousness

- It is at this point that the believer will begin to crave and desire not just a portion, but the entire righteousness of God
- Righteousness
 - In simple terms the concept of righteousness means to be brought into a right standing or being acceptable to God.
 - The greatest need of the church is not to take care of symptoms of hunger, starvation, crime, and various physical conditions, but rather foster in people a deep hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 - The bible basically describes two kinds of righteousness
 - The Righteousness of the law. This usually leads to self righteousness and judgment of others.
 - The Righteousness of God given by belief in Jesus Christ imputed righteousness on the believer!
 - Imputed righteousness means that righteousness that is "credited" or "settled" on our behalf because of Christ finish work on the cross!
- What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
 - This is a deep down hunger and thirst that simply a little taste would satisfy
 - John 13:6-9 Peter simply couldn't stand the thought of not being totally submerged in relationship with Jesus!
 - Jesus is the one who can and does satisfy our hunger and thirst! John 8:37-38
- The promise is "We shall be filled"
 - I find this to be a strange filling. This filling leaves us filled and yet longing for more
 - I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."
 - The love of God and what He has prepared for us satisfies us and leaving longing for more!

Closing Questions for reflection this week

- Do you demonstrate biblical meekness in your walk with God?
- Are you hungry and thirsty for the righteousness of God?