

## Matthew 5:4,5 The Beatitudes Mourning and Meekness

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

- <sup>3</sup> “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

The Last time we were together we began this study on the Beatitudes – Jesus illustrating true happiness

A) The Beatitudes are a Case study in true Happiness.

B) The Latin word for “Blessed” is “Beatus” and it is where we get the title Beatitudes

1) Blessed = Happy – The Be happy attitudes

C) Attitudes the Lord is seeking to work into the hearts of every believer.

Everyone is interested in the Pursuit of Happiness

A) Written into the Preamble of the declaration of Independence – Life liberty.....

B) Google - The Pursuit of Happiness – 47million hits show up

D) And our Culture tends to believe that Happiness is based on Happenings

1) Everything is coming together for me.

People often think: More money will buy them happiness

A) “Money can buy you a bed but it can’t buy you a good night sleep”

“Money can buy you books but it cannot buy you brains.”

“Money can buy you a house but it can’t buy you a home.”

“Money can buy you medicine, but it can’t buy you health.”

Money can buy you amusement but it can’t buy you happiness

B) To quote Sir Paul and the rest of the boys from Liverpool – “Money can’t buy you love.”

D) So How can a person be truly happy?

Survey Gallop Poll and the Natural opinion resource center –

“Spiritually committed people are twice as likely to be happy than those who are not spiritually committed pp.”

A) Basically saying: Happy People are Spiritual people – One step further

B) Happy people are Godly people – The Bible declares Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

C) But the thing that we noted was our Lord’s description of Happiness is way different than the world’s – World Happenings

Jesus Spiritual Character :

A) The first sixteen verses of Matthew 5 describe and deal with character. Spiritual Character

B) The rest of the Sermon on the Mount deals with conduct that grows out of character.

C) Character always comes before conduct, because what we are determines what we do.

Begins with Blessed are the Poor in Spirit/ Engine

A) This first Beatitude is the starting point – Fuels the rest – the others flow out of this idea Poor in Spirit

B) Important to understand what that means What does it mean to be poor in Spirit?

A) Realize my utter dependency upon God for everything- starting with Salvation -

B) It is a sense of spiritual bankruptcy and helplessness before God.

1) Nothing I can do to change my spiritual condition as a sinner.

C) "Poor in spirit" **is the realization that you have no assets to commend yourself before God.**

1) No working Capital to bargain with God – Destitute – Sinner in need of a Savior

**But moves beyond Salvation: Realization that apart from God's strength – I can't do anything – Eternal Value**

A) I am utterly dependent upon God to be the person He has called me to be – Christ follower / Husband...

B) Blessing of being Poor in Spirit – For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

1) Immediate – Saved – Assurance – With the Lord in Eternity

C) Also Future and a Present on going aspect **Kingdom Resources** / "Kingdom of God is among you"

D) - All the resources of the King become available to me/ Grace/ Power/ Provision -

1) Everything I need – He is ready to Supply **Having a mindset of being Poor in Spirit – opens the door to those resources**

A) Ever watched your kids try to do something on their own – **Determined – don't need your help**

B) You know – if they would just let you help them it would be over in a minute

1) But they are determined to do this on their own.

C) You sit back and watch – until they just collapse in frustration – sometimes tears – **HELP ME – CAN'T**

1) YOU STEP IN.

D) That is often the way our lives can be with God

1) He has what we need – But we are stubborn or reluctant to cry out –

E) But when we do – the Resources Flow

**So becoming Poor in Spirit opens the door – Discover the sufficiency of His grace / His Power**

A) When I feel like I can't love – or I can't forgive – Cry out to Him - He supplies me

B) How does this lead into the next Beatitude? **V.4 Blessed are those that Mourn for they will be comforted.**

C) **Happy are the sad?**

1) IS that what Jesus is saying? Not exactly.

**But He is teaching us that a natural by product or reaction to being poor in spirit is to mourn.**

A) When I come face to face **with my sin**, or face to **face with my inadequacies** – I can't do this. Can't Change

B) I am grieved – I am broken – I am undone

1) I get desperate.

C) We can be like that little kid – Frustrated – force the Square peg into the round hole – Cry

D) When I come to the realization: I can't change myself –

1) Paul – the things I don't want to do – I do! – Things I want to do I don't - MESS

E) RESULT – CRY OUT – JESUS SAVE ME MOURN

**The blessing though is in the next phrase: He will be comforted – GOD MEETS US - COMFORT**

A) We are told in Psalm 51 **a Broken and Contrite heart God will not despise.** {Doesn't turn away from – He moves toward}

Job 5:11: **"He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety."**

B) Such an awesome verse: **Mourning – broken** – God doesn't sit back – laughing - Moves toward.

1) Sometimes he waits for us to get to the breaking point

Psalm 30:5

**"...weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."**

Psalm 147:3

**"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."**

C) God is a healer- He is an awesome Father –  
1) Moves toward the hurting and the broken

D) Even when the tears are the result of his own punishment.

But remember we also noted last week that another blessing of being Poor in Spirit – is not just Kingdom Resources But Also Kingdom mindset –

A) Poor in Spirit results in the King's mindset

B) Which means I am not only going to mourn over my own sin – but the sin around me. –

C) The things that break God's heart are going to break my heart as well.

D) I see a marriage falling apart – Heart breaks  
Children neglected – Abused

E) Watch news – Crazy wicked acts of violence –  
Demonic – Mom kills her kids

1) When I see these acts of Terrorism –

#### Sanctity of life Sunday:

➤ Planned parenthood conducted 327,653 abortions in the USA in its fiscal year 2014 (which ran from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

➤ That works out to an average of 37 abortions per hour or nearly 1 every 90 seconds.

Breaks my heart -

And I realize not just a baby that is killed – but the life of a young woman and sometimes young man – who was involved if he knows about it

A) Broken – scarred – something that has the potential to affect them the rest of their lives

B) Mourn: Heart breaks – But at the same time comfort in knowing that there are some amazing people – hearts for that ministry

C) Involved – I am reminded that Jesus is the one who heals the broken hearted –

1) He can make all things new – that which the devil meant for evil and to destroy – he can turn for good.

D) Instead of the Scar that is left behind from that sin becoming the thing that defines a person

1) It becomes the testimony of God's grace!

E) My heart is radically comforted in knowing that God is so able to do that.

Vivid example of this last weekend – marriage conference in Phoenix –

A) Victoria: Full of life – full of Joy – Vibrant – lover of Jesus – Worshipper –

B) But she Came up to talk with me – Our message on walking in Forgiveness

C) First Marriage she was involved in was an abusive relationship –

Husband who professed Christ and went to church Beat her.

A) She would show up to church – wearing sunglasses – to cover her black eyes.

B) Sling holding her broken arm – Crutches for her broken leg

C) When she finally gained the courage to reach out for help –

1) The Pastor of that church had the audacity to tell her she needed to learn how to be a submissive wife.

D) That was so wrong: We take husbands into the woods and beat them.

When Victoria finally gained the courage to Divorce her husband:

A) What had happened to her – Had Defined her – She was a Bitter woman.

B) She took Tae Kwon Do Classes – to learn how to defend herself but also to take out all her aggression – she liked Sparring

1) Even moved beyond the Gym-

Bb) When someone would give her a hard time she would provoke them into pushing her or hitting her so she could – Beat them up.

C) But then Jesus got a hold of her heart – healed her – rescued her

1) Comforted her that her past was not her fault

D)But the message we gave on walking in forgiveness stirred her

1)Because **occasionally** those thoughts of rage or self defense would rear their ugly heads – condemnation

E)Able to share with her – Victoria – it is so obvious that this scar hasn't defined you –

1)**Walking in the Joy of the Lord**

So poor in spirit leads to mourning over my sin – comforted by His grace.

**And that naturally leads to the next Beatitude – Blessed are the meek – for they shall inherit the earth.**

A)People hear meekness – automatically think – Weakness – when in reality –

➤ **Meekness is power under control**

**B)Think of a Wild Stallion – Broken in – Before – Wild rebellious Pure power –**

1) Man from Snowy River – love that movie – Wild horse – Brumby – Horse causes Havoc – Young Jim Craig Breaks her in

C)The horse becomes his friend – **Still powerful but under control**

**Meekness is not weakness, but meekness does not use its power for its own defense or selfish purposes.**

A)Meekness is controlled strength or power completely surrendered to God's control.

B)It is an attitude of heart in which all energies are brought into the perfect control of the Holy Spirit.

**Prior to becoming Poor in Spirit – we are like the Stallion**

**A)Stubborn** – we want to do things our own way.

B)Sometimes we are prideful – think we have it together

1)Trying to live the Christian life in our own strength

C)We think we have what it takes – Confidence in our own abilities **our ingenuity our smarts** –

1)But some of us – make messes – keep struggling

D)Or we excel but with so much of us and so little of Jesus that we end up turning people off.

**Poor in Spirit leads to meekness in this way: Clear view of myself**

A)Able to see my strengths and my weaknesses.

B)I am able to see – that apart from Christ even at my best it is not pretty –

1)I can see my heart – Even on my best days – My heart is still evil

C)I realize – I am desperate for God!

**But here is the beauty in all of this – God is able to take everything that I am – the good the bad and the ugly and redeem it**

A)He is able to use it for His glory!

B)I realize that I am at my best – when I am under His control

1)Why I often say: the key to the Christian life is not in trying harder but it is in Surrender.

C)Meekness is surrendering to be under His power – His control

**1)Submitted to him**

**Peter is a great example: Peter was strong – net 153 fish by himself –**

A)Prior to Pentecost – He is up and down and all around –

B)Good moments: ..... Leave also – Lord where...

**C)Who do men say I am? – Christ .....**

1)Flesh and blood did not .....

D)Put his foot in his mouth – tried way too hard - Lord let me build

1)Didn't know what to say – felt like he needed to say something.

E)Low moment - Get behind me Satan

**Lowest- This night all will forsake me - Lord I will not, not me! – Rest of these losers – Peter you will deny....**

A)Peter Loved Jesus and he was absolutely sincere. - Denied 3 times

B)Peter did the **exact thing that he could never imagine himself doing**

1) He denied Jesus not once twice – but three times  
When that Rooster Crowed – Peter Wept bitterly

**C) Peter was Broken:** - Peter came to the end of himself –

1) That is really a good description of being poor in spirit – coming to the end of yourself –

D) Peter mourned – but He would be comforted!

**E) Three days later: Resurrection - Go tell the Disciples and Peter**

1) Peter singled out – Because I think – he no longer felt like a Disciple

**When Peter heard that he probably felt – Jesus wants to see me, really?**

A) **1 Corinthians 15 – Private meeting** - I think: Jesus told Peter you can't do this on your own.

B) In his love for Christ – but he had to learn that he couldn't serve Jesus in his own strength

C) **After Pentecost – Different story** { Peter finally becomes this example of Meekness –

1) Power – under control – His life – **Harnessed** under the Power of Jesus

D) **Didn't mean perfect** – but he goes from being this guy who was just all over the place emotionally to being FOCUSED AND EFFECTIVE!

**Meekness implies submission to God but it is not a passive submission that suggests indecisiveness, or a lack of confidence.**

A) Neither is MEEKNESS a lack of conviction, complacency!

B) **Meekness is an active submission**, a choosing to accept God's will and God's Way – above my own.

C) Another place where this can be clearly seen – is in marriage:

**(Not married- might have seen this in your parents)**

**These two people who come together – they both bring strengths into the marriage**

A) But if those strengths are not harnessed – becomes a **tug of war of two people pulling in opposite directions** –

B) They want their way – their power – their will – and it becomes this battle

C) But Ephesians 5:21 paints this great picture of Meekness – *Submitting to one another .....*

1) Two people submitted to the Lord embracing their roles – submitted to His plan

D) Their Power/ their strengths - under control -

**The Blessing of Meekness? They shall inherit the earth!**

A) **Spiritual aspect to this:**

**“The spirit of meekness is what enables its possessor to get so much enjoyment out of his earthly portion, be it small or large.”** – Pink

B) One of the Characteristics of the meek person is Contentment – **AT REST IN THE LORD!**

C) Satisfied with the allotment – He has given them.

1) Their Life is free from the **tyranny of "just a little more,"**

**“The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord.”** – Isaiah 29:19 – Everyday Joy

A) They know who they are in Christ – They know He is for them - **SATISFIED IN THAT -**

B) The Picture of the Broken in Wild Stallion is a great **EXAMPLE of this.**

1) **Restlessness is gone – the Anger is gone**

C) My owner loves me and is going to take care of me

1) All that I am – all that I can be – **HARNESSED UNDER HIS LOVING CONTROL**

D) Those who are Meek are no longer living to prove anything to themselves or anyone else.

1) **Secure in their own Skin – their own place**

E) That is the Present Spiritual side to this Promise – the meek shall inherit the earth!

1)They are ENJOYING LIFE NOW!!!!

**But there is also a Literal aspect as well.**

A) **Co-heirs with Christ** – We are going to Share in His Inheritance.

**“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”**

~ Romans 8:16,17

**The greatest example of Meekness is Jesus**

A) **LEFT HEAVEN – SUBMITTED** Himself to the WILL AND WAY of the Father !

B) **THE CROSS** - taunted – could have used His power to wipe out humanity

C) **Held it under control** – to inherit hearts

**MADE A WAY – LOST SINNERS – SAVED  
Forgiven - Made New**