
Session 7 (Mt. 5:5)

I. REVIEW: POOR IN POOR IN SPIRIT & SPIRITUAL MOURNING

- A. Being **poor in spirit** is understanding that Jesus has provided us spiritual wealth called grace, and that our legal position before God is that we have the fullness of grace available to us. But the problem is that our living conditions (here & now) are lacking. The idea behind this beatitude is to cultivate urgency in our relationship with God that overcomes spiritual passivity and pride. This is foundational to cultivating the other seven beatitudes.
- B. Having **spiritual mourning** is the way we feel about our poverty in spirit. When we see and understand our lack before God compared to the fullness He offers us, it should cause us to respond with godly sorrow to seek Him for a breakthrough. Having the pain of godly desperation and holy discontent causes us to be extreme in rearranging our lives to spend our strength, time, and money to seek God for all that He would give.
- C. Spiritual mourning is a supernatural work of the Spirit that will lead to salvation or deliverance from a dull spirit and a powerless ministry. ¹⁰***Godly sorrow produces repentance [wholeheartedness] leading to salvation [breakthrough]... ¹¹What diligence it produced in you...what indignation [against compromise], what fear [fear of God], what vehement desire [for Jesus], what zeal, what vindication! (2 Cor. 7:9-11)*** Spiritual mourning is rare, precious, and powerful gift,
- D. The issue with this beatitude is that our culture values comfort, and spiritual mourning is all about refusing to be comforted by anything except the fullness of the promises of God's Word for our lives. The problem is, we have a tendency to seek comfort in the wrong way. We want what's quick and easy, or we want people to give us an excuse as to why we shouldn't be extreme in seeking God.
- E. There are a lot of believers out there who have never been pained by their spiritual lack. They're kind of content with their dull barrenness. They think it's normal because everyone around them is that way. Refuse to be comforted by other believers who live this way! Here's why: they're not even aware that they're stuck in barrenness. If you listen to them and walk in a watered-down, distorted grace message, you will miss out on so much that God desires to do in your life. We want to learn grace from those who have cultivated a vibrant spirit in this beatitude, a sustaining grace to press into God. We should want what will stoke the fire of God's fullness, not put it out! That's why the sermon on the mount is most excellent teaching on grace, because Jesus exemplified this message.

II. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK (MT. 5:5)

- A. ⁴***Blessed are the meek for they shall Inherit the Earth. (Mt. 5:5)*** Poverty of spirit and meekness are related beatitudes yet they have important distinctions. Poverty of spirit starts with the awareness our spiritual lack before God but meekness is the awareness of our lack before people. One part of meekness is about realizing our need for others in the body of Christ. Even though we have the holy spirit living in the inside there is only a certain level of Godliness that we can achieve on our own. ¹⁷***that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and***

height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

- B. Jesus never intended for us to live this Christian life on our own, even He relied on someone else. ¹⁹ *Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (John 5:19)* Meekness is about cultivating a teachable spirit that doesn't rely on its own resources and strengths.
- C. Meekness is our indebtedness to God for giving us the resources:(gifting, money, position of authority, etc.) The meek understand that it all belongs to Him. It never was theirs, ever. A lot of people, when they get an increase of wisdom, gifting, favor in ministry, favor in relationships, finance, they become a powerbroker with their own increase as though it's theirs. You may be the greatest singer; you may be the greatest technology guy. You may be the greatest drama guy. You may be the greatest preacher, writer, mechanic, politician. Those gifts were given to you by God. Jesus wants us to carry all our gifts and talents as though it belongs to another; not as a powerbroker, not like it's yours. Be tender with the people. Carry the gift with gratitude, whether the gifting is big or small.
- D. Meekness is having power over your selfishness and your preoccupation with ourselves. That's meekness! It takes the power of God to do that. Our most natural mindset is to see our resources as belonging to us. We have a tendency to see our successes as the fruit of our dedication and hard work. We naturally think that we deserve better treatment from God and people in our circumstances.
- E. Meekness is the power to break through from that centrifugal force of being self-consumed. You can't break free from it on your own; it's the work of the Spirit. We can repent of it all day long, but there's a gravitational pull on the inside of us where we can think we're getting a bad deal with God. That's completely the wrong perspective, because prior to being saved and being part of the kingdom, we were headed to lost eternity.
- F. God's grace has given us an inheritance far more than what we deserve. So the perspective should be on cultivating gratefulness that more bad things aren't touching our lives, without God's grace, we would experience far more worse things! The meek embrace important tasks or menial tasks with gratitude, knowing they are getting more than they deserve from God. The meek refuse to manipulate or exert pressure on people to promote them.
- G. The essence of meekness is rooted in who we are preoccupied with. The meek are preoccupied with Jesus as their source and owner of everything they possess. Therefore, they are grateful for it and they use it with a servant spirit and with generosity. If we see that everything we have received is a gift of grace, then we will not view it with a boastful or proud attitude. With a wrong view of our gifting or lack of gifting, position or lack of position, wealth or lack of wealth, we lack gratitude and thus can easily become offended when we are overlooked or resisted. The meek understand that they deserve God's discipline much more than any measure of (small or large) blessing that He has given them before people.