

April 5, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Sermon on the Mount
Episode 2: A Tame Horse is Still a Horse
Matthew 5:3-5
Pastor Harry Wilson

Matthew 5:3-5

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

- Good news of the Beatitudes.
- *Makários*: Greek word for Blessed. Describes someone who is in a fortunate, even enviable, position due to receiving God’s favor, in which the benefits of Heaven are extended (MAK “made long”) to the individual.
- The revolution of Christ is a deliberate inversion of standard values that reveals the counter cultural Kingdom of God. The upside down Kingdom.
- Check our values.

Vs. 3 Blessed are the poor in Spirit Matthew author context

- Poverty is not only a physical condition, but a spiritual condition.
- Gospel is not about what you know it’s about who you know, apart from Jesus we are impoverished.
- Poverty is the spiritual condition of humankind. Recognition of our spiritual poverty is the catalyst for growth and blessing.

“Presumed familiarity has led to unfamiliarity, unfamiliarity has led to contempt, and contempt has led to profound ignorance.” - Dallas Willard

Vs. 4 Blessed are those who mourn

- To mourn is to both acknowledge and lament a loss.
- Empathy of God. Parakaleó: Greek word for “comforted” also necessitates encouragement and strengthening.
- God’s love is transformative in nature. It is both consoling and strengthening; it refuses to leave us broken or victimized.

Vs. 5 Blessed are the meek

- Práus: Greek word that is translated as “meek.” Greek’s used this word to describe a horse that had been tamed. The english word “meek” does not capture the reserved and controlled strength that is intended. (war horse, hardly timid.)
- Those that direct their power and strength productively towards good (take more ground), while managing cautious restraint, are those that will gain authority over the earth. . .Too eager...2 stories: Difference in them is de-escalation.
- De-escalation is an invaluable skill when it comes to untangling relational conflict. Conflict is inevitable, if you know how to keep your sword sheathed then you know how to de-escalate. Spouse comes home, they are upset, they criticize you, you have 1 of 2 options. Emotional escalation it’s a contagion that turns into a vicious cycle.
- Self control like a muscle.

If we learn to de-escalate, practice self control, embody a quite strength, not only will our relationships improve but we may even be blessed.

Call to Action

1. Humility: Take time to recognize your own spiritual poverty. The depth of relationship with God is vast; explore it further. Engage in scripture or prayer in a new way.
2. If you are dealing with loss, take time to acknowledge that loss and properly mourn. There is healing in this practice. Seek out counseling.
3. Practice self control and restraint. These work like muscles, they can be built stronger over time. They also deplete like muscles.

God loves, us he wants to bless us with all the advantages of heaven, and we have a part to play. Amen