

Message Two – Matthew 5:3-4 Brokenness to Blessedness

INTRODUCTION: *He knew it was worth it but He couldn't help but remember being with His dad...and the memory made Him want to just leave and go back. Go back to where it didn't hurt so much. And He was hurting. A lot. The fact that it was so dark didn't help things much. Your mind plays tricks on you in the dark. Small insignificant noises in the light become very different when the shadows come in full force. His arms hurt...Why couldn't he have been just few inches taller? He heard them above Him...low voices and rustling, shuffling, guilt ridden feet...and the hurt magnified...this time more internal than external. But all that didn't matter now...the plan was well out of their feeble attempts at control anyway...the shuffling footsteps came closer and He knew that it was time. And when the cover over His holding cell was removed and the small bit of light from the oil lamps burning above conquered the pit where He was 'held', He remembered His father again, The Father of Lights, and He smiled and thought of you and me and took the first steps toward the hill we now call Calvary.*

- I. **Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- A. The Quality-poor in spirit
1. 'Supremely blessed are those that are beggars of/in the spirit for theirs is the royalty, territory and reign of heaven'
 - a. What would make us beg for the spirit...recognize our need!
 1. ***Broken-ness – Isaiah 2:17 The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.***
 2. ***Inadequacies – Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death.***
 - b. How do we beg for it?
 - (1) 'Those that call on the name of the lord shall be saved' Acts 2:21
 - (2) *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10*
 - c. What do we get?
 - (1) Position in Christ 'Here are my mother and brothers...' Mat 12:49
 - (2) Position in heaven as a place 'In my fathers house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you...' John 14:2
 - (3) Position in heaven as a reward '...I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' John 14:3
 2. Examples in scripture of the quality in action
 - a. Luke 18:9-14 The quality in man-notice the upside down kingdom concept here!
 - b. Psalm 22 The quality in Christ-notice the end...Praise in the worst of circumstances-make this part personal...

PRINCIPLE: *Recognition of our current state must drive us to the foot of the cross...and when we are there broken and humbled, our eyes are opened to supreme blessings that wait for us now and forever.*

APPLICATION: *How much time do you spend begging for the spirit vs running right into the gimmies of prayer? How thankful are you for the mercy of God displayed in His plan of salvation? In short, how broken are you?*

II. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

A. The Quality-those who mourn

1. 'Supremely blessed are those who have profound grief, for they shall be invited near to consolation.'
 - a. Why should we have profound grief? Isn't it better just to focus on the power of positive thinking? Why be so cynical? If God is love, what's with all the broken-ness and grieving?
 - (1) A broken relationship with God. '...*anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*' James 4:4 – *This describes all of us. 'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God'* Romans 3:23, 'There is none righteous...no, not one' '...*as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin...in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.*' Rom 5:12
 - (2) Our hatred of God at our core 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it' Jeremiah 17:9 '
 - (3) The price of our salvation 'For God so loved the world...', '...*was made a little lower than the angels*', '...*it pleased God to bruise Him*',
 - b. How does grief end at comfort? – OK, I'm broken and grieving...now what?
 - (1) It starts at the foot of the cross-*created by being poor in spirit*
 - (2) We see Jesus and we hurt for the price we caused-*we realize that our sin put Him there and we weep.*
 - (3) Tears, when wiped away reveal a bare cross and an empty tomb-*the reality of what has really taken place at Calvary and is now taking place at the right hand of the Father sets in...*
 - (4) Eternal peace that passes all understanding invades us.-*We can never be the same. God is amazing...he can take black, cover it with red, and make us white.*
2. Examples in scripture of the quality in action
 - a. Grief: (Christ's response to sin) *Matthew 23: The seven woes as applied to that day, and our current walk.*
 - b. Comfort: *Psalms 20:*

PRINCIPLE: *We have two options in life. We can accept the price Christ paid for our sins, or we can spend eternity paying for it ourselves. There is no middle ground.*

APPLICATION: *How do you respond to sin in your life? How about in the life of those around you? Do you just accept a certain level of it because, after all, were all human you know...or does it repulse you like a cancer diagnosis? How much are you trying to pay for your sin debt? How easy is it for you to let the burdens be in the 'Paid in full' side of the ledger balance? And to let the ink be red?*

CONCLUSION: Bob – tell the story. 'That's how blessed I am...I've got both my arms!'

Bob had been physically broken, and he had the scars to prove it. His body no longer functioned he wanted it to. His old life prior to being broken was just a distant memory and physically impossible to return to. Bob is a lot like us I a lot of ways. We've all been broken in one way or another. We've all dealt with our sins on some level...and we carry the scars to prove it. Some of the scars have inflicted pain that keeps us from getting around like we once did. Like Bob, even the most basic spiritual tasks, if near those old scars, becomes real work and feel impossible to complete. And just like Bob, we can make the conscious decision to bear the scars for someone else. Bob didn't ride a wheelchair for Bob. He grunted and worked and pushed the blasted thing around for His maker. Bob couldn't go back to his old life if he wanted to...and the really blessed thing is...Bob doesn't want to and neither should we! Let's close in prayer.