

Message Three – Matthew 5:5-6 (meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness)

INTRODUCTION:

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

- A. Supremely blessed, congratulated by God are the mild or humble because they shall obtain by inheritance, the earth.
 - 1. Earth refers to both the soil (physical) and the occupants (people)
 - 2. Inheritance has both a present and future connotation
- B. What is meekness?
 - 1. Literally in the OT– ‘humble’-Moses Numbers 12:3 – Bowed before God
 - 2. Literally in the NT- ‘gentle, humble’ – Christ after His ‘conviction’ Matt 11:29 – Bowed before His purpose
 - 3. Literally in us – descriptive of the relationship between us and God. – Bowed before God and bowed before His purpose
 - 4. Has no connotation of possession but an inner quality (Moses was not poor...) that must occur in spite of our possessions and position
 - 5. Evidence of the willingness to either start or maintain a relationship
- C. What motivates our meekness?
 - 1. God’s law demands it: Read : OT Highlighted
 - 2. Gratitude for God’s example in His son our savior :
 - a. John 13:12-16 The upper room
 - b. Mat. 21-calvary Christ’s response to the plan greater than Himself
 - 3. Gratitude for God’s provision of the example recorded in the OT Moses
 - 4. Inheritance/gifts stemming from meekness
 - a. Future-the new heaven and earth – citizenship in a heavenly kingdom – Jn 14:2-3 - ‘I go to prepare a place for you’
 - b. Present-relationship oriented life in Christ –
 - (1) Dirty hands and feet and knees
 - (2) Relationships with other ‘dirt’
- D. What are it’s conditions?
 - 1. We have to be in the family to inherit anything.
- E. What does the quality look like:
 - a. Horizontally? Seeking the furtherance of the Kingdom of God before the Kingdom of Marshall
 - b. Vertically? Earnest heart of worship...peace in the unknowns

PRINCIPLE: When we bow before our Lord and Savior in submission to His position and purpose, we are given a physical and an eternal inheritance.

APPLICATION: Whose family are you in? How dirty are your hands and feet because you keep rubbing into relationships that keep ‘popping’ up? Whose kingdom are you seeking?

II. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- A. Happy are those who toil daily for subsistence and also thirst after innocence, holiness or justification because they shall be supplied in abundance.
- B. How does this 'hungering and thirsting' start?
 - 1. Acknowledgement of our need
 - 2. Knowing where to turn
 - 3. Shoe leather-move the word from head to heart
- C. What does it involve?
 - 1. It is the pursuit of justification – made right with God
 - 2. It is the pursuit of innocence – freedom from the guilt and penalty of sin
 - 3. It is the pursuit of holiness - sanctification
- D. Where does 'hungering and thirsting' end?
 - 1. These pursuits all end in the purpose and person of Christ-imputation
 - 2. These pursuits all continue as a purpose for us until we see Him face to face.
- E. What do we get filled with?
 - 1. Peace with God
 - 2. The Holy Spirit
 - 3. Boldness and confidence
- F. When do we get filled?
 - 1. At confession of faith in Christ's perfect work
 - 2. Along the way as we have milestones of growth, periods of trial which remind us more clearly of what we have already been filled with.
- G. What does the quality look like:
 - c. Horizontally? Standing for the Truth all the time. Loving the personal study of God's word as if it was food...and then realizing that it is! Disciplined daily study. Slowing my schedule down enough to have devotional time with my children on a daily basis. Modeling the behavior to my children and coworkers and whoever else I meet/rub shoulders with. Not being ashamed of the Gospel.
 - d. Vertically? A heart of service born of gratitude. Saying yes to involvement more than I say no...and meaning it. Living a life of service without keeping score with god. Keeping short accounts. Finding yourself acting in a godly way without having to think about it first. Being godly when no-one else is around...and you know they won't be for a while.

PRINCIPLE: Earnestly and completely desiring God's righteousness results in more than we could have ever asked for now and eternally.

APPLICATION: How much do you think about intentionally seeking righteousness? How often do you act on those thoughts? When you do act on those thoughts, what motivates the action? Who are you when you are at church...at work...at home with the kids...alone online...with friends from church...with friends not from church? Were all the answers the same?

CONCLUSION: Sir Edmund Hillary died last week. Most of you may not know who he is. If I were speaking in Nepal, near the city of Darjeeling, heads would turn at the mention of his name. He started many foundations in Nepal for the sherpa people...the people that his right hand climber, Tenzey Norgay, came from. The sherpa people, along with Tenzey, were 362 of over 400 total people involved in the first successful attempt on MT Everest in 1953. The success of this attempt funneled a lot of attention and money into the hands of the poor and destitute Nepalese people...most of it at the hands of Sir Edmund Hillary. This happened in large part because Tenzey was recorded as being the first man in the team to

summit (there are no pictures of Hillary at the summit, only Tenzey), but Hillary knew the truth. It was only shortly before his death that he acknowledged that it was he who set foot first, and not Tenzey. But again, Hillary knew the truth...without the sherpa people, his attempt at the summit of a 29000 foot mountain was impossible. First or second, Tenzey deserved the credit and Hillary made sure he got it.

We need to remember this when we serve Christ. We may think we are doing great things, we may even get everyone around us to believe it too...but we know the truth. No matter what we achieve, or don't achieve, it is only by the grace, mercy and power of God that we do it. Any character traits that are Godly that flow from us come first from the power of the one who exemplified them all perfectly. All the beatitudes start with Christ, and end there as well. Let's pray.