

The Christian Attitude

Have a read of **Matthew 5v1-16**. This is typically known as the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, or if you like, the beatitudes. I have written on this topic before and titled it "Be Attitudes" I want to come at it from a different angle this time. We read these verses and we see what our attitude "should be" but sometimes we overlook exactly what the Christian walk is all about too, as Jesus spoke of in these verses. Many times I have heard this sermon preached in the church about the beatitudes or parts of it, I have done so myself, but looking at them today I was thinking, OK, we know what we have to do but why do we still do the opposite? Well, I think it is because we don't know what the opposite is!

OK, I will go through one at a time, "poor in spirit". Basically it talks about those who understand and know there need of God in their life, so what is an area opposite here? When we know we need God in our life, is mostly when we are at our lowest point, physically and emotionally, but what do we normally do? I will look at my own life here and state some things I see in my life, you work out your own. When I am the lowest in my life, I usually get pretty morbid (in my opinion) and negative, I am down on myself, I am not worth anything, noone loves me, noone cares..... but the scripture says blessed are the poor in spirit! Why? "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven"! In other words, if I were to truly seek God like I should when I am poor in spirit, I am open, willing and receptive to receive from him because there is nothing else. So instead of getting all negative and out of joint, I should be seeking God on this very problem that I have, telling him how I feel and not others, telling him I need **HIM** and not the sympathy of others!

"Blessed are those that mourn"..... Vines dictionary shows it "as one who beats himself". Now how should we refer this to our situation? Mourns talks also about grief, but sometimes we beat ourselves up by saying I am not worthy, I am not worth a pinch of salt or maybe other references when God sees us as his own, a vessel that can be used regardless of being out of shape emotionally. Problem is, we beat ourself senseless and we can't hear from God, we need to go to God sit before him tell him our problems, our insecurities and ask him to help us get over them, then we shall see the result of "they shall be comforted", I know some people who are their own worst enemy! They have the attitude of give me a gun as I need to go out back and shoot myself as I am nothing but a rabid dog! We need to see ourself as God sees us, as his child, the devil is the only dog who looks at us differently, who cares what he thinks!

"The Meek" Vines shows us it means "gentle or mild" toward God and man. How do we treat our fellow man, even our enemies? It says not to struggle with God or with man, are we meek in everything we do? I mean I struggle with what God wants me to do sometimes, and I believe it even covers that too. If we treat others gently and kindly the bible says we shall inherit the earth..... in other words when we are in need we are going to have people there for us at our time of need too! But the opposite would be, if you as much as think someone is a scumbag, or a conman even, this is the opposite of being meek, God sees our heart, he knows our every thoughts toward him and toward others.

"Hunger and thirst after righteousness". This is doing it Gods way! The opposite is pretty plain and simple really - doing it our way! When we do things our way we are never satisfied! When we do things God's way, we "shall be filled", or if you like satisfied, if you are never satisfied with what you have or who you are, then maybe you need to seek God on what or how he wants you to be or do something, are you satisfied in your work place? Do it Gods way? Are you satisfied with where you live, Do it God's way, and Gods way as a whole is to be thankful and give him praise, honour and glory.

Merciful, is pity! When you come across a junkie who has nothing and is starving, do you take pity on them and buy them a meal, or maybe a drunk in the street, yes there are a lot of "cons" out there but mercy has no favourites, see the real need and meet it, then when you have needs, someone will help you out, the opposite would be to say get a hair cut and a job ya bum! This may be an extreme example, how about your neighbour who spends too much of his money on whatever and his kids go without, do you have mercy on those kids or do you just see the neighbour who is an imbecile and not see the kids starving or in need of clothing?

"Pure in heart"..... wow this is a big one! What is our heart attitude? Are we just playing church, are we just going by in our daily life and doing what we want, sinning, disobeying God and then go to church on Sunday and act all spiritual? Then, we ask the question how come I never see any miracles, how come I never see God do anything, then you have your answer, God sees our heart.

"Peace makers". Are you a peace maker or a trouble maker, what comes out of our lips at times, gossip, judgement of others, do we cause trouble for others? Are we called the sons of God, or better said are we recognised as Christian in our every day life?

"Persecuted for the **words** sake". Don't get this mixed up with plain dumb given a hard time by the devil... are we persecuted, jeered at, seen as a fool by others because of our Christian walk? Or the opposite would be, noone even knows I am a Christian, no one ever hackles me because of my Christianity because I hide it so well? I never speak about the bible to people because I don't like it when they put me down, this is the opposite!

"Revile and persecute" is basically the same as above, but on a higher scale of being "picked on". Both of these last two beatitudes reveal that the kingdom of God is ours if our lives reflect it. So what is the kingdom of God? Read **Mark 9v1; 1Cor 4v20; Luke 9v2; Romans 14v17**. Do you have these Kingdom principles in your life? If not, I would take a look at my life and see where I am going wrong in the beatitudes. I believe there is no reason that we can not operate in the power of God today! Every single one of us, no reason! I know many including myself who want to, some do some times but not all the time, but it **should** be on a daily basis, I believe we should be praying for the sick **daily**, preaching the gospel to the poor, seeing lives changed and transformed before our very eyes **every day!**