

The Way We Are To Be Pt. 1 - Matthew 5

January 21, 2018

Matthew 5:1-3 ESV

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

poor (ptōchos) reduced to beggary, destitute, helpless, powerless

- ***This describes a condition of heart that goes far beyond just needing some extra help. It describes an utter distrust in one's self and efforts.***

Philippians 3:3 ESV

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

- ***This level of distrust does not come naturally, but must be taught by the Holy Spirit in the continual training of God's chastening (including and often especially in the failures).***

Hebrews 5:14 ESV

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Romans 7:18-19 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

"After conversion, a man begins to do his best, and he fails...God allows that failure so that the regenerate man should be taught his own utter inability. It is in the course of this struggle that the sense of our utter sinfulness comes to us. It is God's way of dealing with us. He allows man to strive to fulfill the law so that, as he strives and wrestles, he may be brought to this: 'I am a regenerate child of God, but I am utterly helpless to obey His law.'" — Andrew Murray, Absolute Surrender p.81

"Let us receive this as the first great lesson in the spiritual life: "It is impossible for me, my God. Let there be an end of the flesh and all its powers, an end of self, and let it be my glory to be helpless."

— Andrew Murray, Absolute Surrender p.68

- ***Knowing how spiritually destitute we are drives us in desperation to abiding in and drawing upon Jesus moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day.***

Romans 7:24 ESV

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

John 15:4-5 ESV

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

“When the habit of inwardly gazing Godward becomes fixed within us, we shall be ushered into a new level of spiritual life...” — A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, “A New Level of Spirituality”

- **To those who don't need God because they trust in themselves, the resources of heaven will remain closed.**

Galatians 3:3-4 ESV

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

4 Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

Galatians 5:4 ESV

4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

- **Prosperity is one of the greatest threats to knowing our need for God.**

Revelation 3:14-19 ESV

14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

15 "'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!

16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

“I believe that entertainment and amusements are the work of the Enemy to keep dying men from knowing they're dying; and to keep enemies of God from remembering that they're enemies.” —A.W. Tozer

- **There are eternal consequences when we are not poor in spirit.**

John 15:6 ESV

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

- **Knowing how spiritually destitute we are opens to us all of the resources of the kingdom of heaven.**

2 Peter 1:2-3 ESV

2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Matthew 5:4 ESV

4 "Blessed are those **who mourn** (*pentheō* - wail, lament, grieve), **for they shall be comforted.**"

- *Guilt is not mourning.*
 - *Guilt is often selfish, fearing discovery, consequences or rejection.*
 - *Mourning is a deep sorrow and grief that comes from knowing your responsibility for the offense, injury and loss that your actions caused.*
 - *Mourning is a deep sorrow and grief that comes from knowing the depths of your depravity and the wickedness of the sin residing in your flesh.*
 - *"I groan daily under a body of sin and corruption. Oh for the time when I shall drop this flesh, and be free from sin!" —Charles Spurgeon*
- *The flesh hates to mourn. It would much prefer to hide the sin, shift the blame, rationalize the actions or offer some trite and indifferent confession to quickly move on.*
- *If there is no mourning over sin, there is either no understanding or no remorse for how your sin broke the Father's heart and what your sin cost Jesus on the cross.*

James 4:8-9 ESV

8 Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

1 Corinthians 5:2 ESV

2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

2 Corinthians 12:21 ESV

21 I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented...

- **Many focus on the forgiveness of sins to the neglect and even denial of godly sorrow and repentance. There is no forgiveness of sins without the godly sorrow which produces repentance.**

Matthew 3:7-9 ESV

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Luke 24:45-47 ESV

45 Then he [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

- **The heart of repentance is a gift of God's grace; it cannot be manufactured or duplicated by human will or emotion.**

Acts 5:31 ESV

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 ESV

18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

2 Timothy 2:24-26 ESV

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,
25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,
26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

- **Unmistakable Qualities of Repentance**

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 ESV

8 For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it--though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while.

9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

WORLDLY GRIEF - what it cost me, selfishly focuses on the consequences, worldly sorrow is the perpetuation of the same selfishness just in a different form, many are just as selfish in their repentance as they were in their sin

GODLY GRIEF - what it cost God, the offense to His holiness, the heartbreak of betrayal, the sacrifice of His Son

Psalm 51:4 ESV

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...

REPENTANCE (metanoia) a two-fold change of mind, an abhorrence for the sin coupled with a love for righteousness

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 ESV

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

- eagerness to clear (*apologia*) plea, apology, answer for yourself
- indignation (*aganaktēsis*) irritation, vexation, anger, jealousy
- fear (*phobos*) - dread, terror
- longing (*epipothēsis*) vehement desire
- zeal (*zelos*) excitement, fervor, punitive zeal
- punishment (*ekdikēsis*) revenging, vengeance
- innocent (*hagnos*) pure, clear, clean

“Much of our problem in continuing fellowship with a holy God is that many Christians repent only for what they do, rather than for what they are.” A.W. Tozer, “Whatever Happened to Worship?”