

## The Way We Are To Be - Pursue Righteousness (Matthew 5)

February 25, 2018

### Matthew 5:1-10 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 [THE NEED FOR RELATIONSHIP] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

4 [THE PATH TO RELATIONSHIP] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

5 [THE TRUST OF RELATIONSHIP] "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

6 [THE PURSUIT OF RELATIONSHIP] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

### Matthew 5:6 (ESV) THE PURSUIT OF RELATIONSHIP

*"From morning to night keep Jesus in thy heart, long for nothing, desire nothing, hope for nothing but to have all that is within thee changed into the spirit and temper of the holy Jesus." —William Law (1686 - 1761)*

6 "Blessed are those who **hunger** (*peinaō* - to crave ardently, seek with eager desire) and **thirst** (*dipsaō* - eagerly long for; figuratively, those who painfully feel their want of) **for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**"

- To **hunger and thirst for righteousness** means desiring to be right with God or in right relationship. Are there any discrepancies between God and I? Is there anything in me that grieves His heart and holiness?

*Psalm 15:1-2 ESV A Psalm of David.*

*1 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?*

*2 He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;*

- By comparing the desire to be right with God to hunger and thirst, Jesus describes the **priority**, the **intensity** and the **severity** of what that desire should be.
- Those who hunger and thirst to be right with God **have no boundaries where He is not permitted**. They want Him to **conquer, possess and rule** every part of their heart and life.
- For those who do not hunger and thirst to be right with God, He is a **preference** but not a **necessity**. Their desire for God simply does not possess the **priority**, the **intensity**, nor the **severity** of hunger and thirst.

*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 ESV*

- They don't want to be alone without God, they agree that they need God, but they want relationship with autonomy.
- They want a relationship that is minimally invasive and convenient.
- They have defined boundaries and barriers to intimacy in place.
- They want the benefits of affiliation without the surrender of relationship.
- They want His love and help on their terms and conditions.
- They are willing to accept a spiritual boredom which is "safe" rather than a passion which is all-consuming.

- ***When Jesus occupies His rightful place in our hearts and lives, there is nothing we won't sacrifice to be in right relationship with Him. He is not a part of our lives, nor merely in our lives, but He is our life, our all in all, the very reason and purpose of our lives.***

Matthew 13:44-46 ESV

44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,

46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 5:29-30 ESV

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Luke 14:25-28 ESV

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

- ***There is grave and devastating peril in professing to be a Christian with idols in our heart. God will not share your heart with anyone or anything else.***

Deuteronomy 6:14-15 ESV

14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you--

15 for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God--lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

Ezekiel 14:4-6 KJV

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn [yourselves] from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Ezekiel 20:7-9 ESV

7 And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.

8 But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

9 But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

- ***As a child of God, your love for God will be put to the test. And the proof of your love will be measured by what you are willing to sacrifice. No cost is too high. No sacrifice is too great.***

Revelation 12:10-11 ESV

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

*"When a Roman soldier was told by his guide that if he insisted on taking a certain journey it would probably be fatal, he answered, 'It is necessary for me to go; it is not necessary for me to live.'"*

—Streams in the Desert, "Deeper" September 9

Genesis 22:1-2 ESV

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Genesis 22:11-12 ESV

11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Matthew 19:16-24 ESV

16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.

24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

1 Peter 1:6-8 ESV

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,  
7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

- *The value of the treasure makes every and any sacrifice more than worthwhile.*

Hebrews 11:24-27 ESV

24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

Philippians 3:7-8 ESV

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalms 63:1 ESV A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.