

UPPER ROOM SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Living the Life of the Beloved/Belonging: Matthew 5-7

Pastor Jim Otte

Spring-Summer, 2018

Lesson 3 – (April 8, 2018) Matthew 5:4-12

From Last Session:

1. God gives us the gift of faith, in which you can have confidence in His promises.
2. Threats to your confidence include: our sinful nature; Satan's temptations; and the world's influence.
3. Jesus called His disciples to be "fishers of men," which should describe the opportunity we have to witness for Him.
4. When we fail or fall short in our witnessing, we can 'repair' it – and keep the opportunity for future witnessing intact.
5. Other people can be God's instruments of "God-Smacking!"

Matthew 5:4-12

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- a. **"those who mourn"** – when you are sorrowful for your sinful instincts, your choices to sin, and for the evil which abounds in the world. You are heart-broken over the way that sin impacts the world.
- b. **"they shall be comforted."** – when you know you are beloved, you repent in sorrow, and your comfort is in hearing of God's forgiveness of you – and the forgiveness offered by a brother/sister in Christ.
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #6:** Knowing you are loved, and already forgiven through the cross, gives you the confidence you need to go to _____ with a contrite heart.

a. *Psalm 51:17. My sacrifice, O God, is^a a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.*

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- a. **"are the meek"** ("praotis") – in Classical Greek, this word is the middle ground between excessive anger/rage and excessive passivity: self-control and humility, with discernment!
- b. **"they will inherit the earth."** – self-control and humility win the day!

- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #7:** Anger gets people's attention in the _____ - term; meekness transforms people in the long-term.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- a. **“hunger and thirst for righteousness”** – the hunger of a starving man; the thirst of a drought leading to death. When you are desperate to do the right thing and seeing the right thing being done by others.
- b. **“filled.”** – satisfaction.
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #8:** Satisfaction in life is not gained by acquiring things, but in using things for _____.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- a. **“are the merciful,”** – (“eleemon”) – when you show the humility to set aside your own biases, in order to see life through your neighbor's eyes. Empathy. Inviting people to tell you the reasons they have for doing what they do, even if what they do offends you.
- b. **“be shown mercy.”** – the measure you give...you'll receive!
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #9:** When you know you are loved and given mercy as a _____, you give as you have been given.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

- a. **“pure in heart”** – (“katharos”) – unmixed, pure, cleansed, purged of chaff. When your motives (heart) are truly altruistic, with no hint of narcissism.
- b. **“will see God.”** – Self-service clouds your vision of God; pure service cleanses your vision to “see” God at work.
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #10:** God's gift of love fuels our desire to serve without “what's in it for _____?”

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

- a. **“the peacemakers,”** – reconcilers
- b. **“called children of God”** – (“called doers of God's work”) – As God sent Jesus to reconcile the world to Himself, you are called to share the ministry of reconciliation.
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #11:** Peace-makers do the _____ work of making peace with their own faults, and then, help others find peace with each other, i.e. “log” work first; “speck” work second.

¹⁰ **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

¹¹ **“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

- a. **“those who are persecuted because of righteousness”** – persecution for your faith comes in direct and indirect forms:
 - a. **Direct** – opposition from unbelieving people, i.e. mockery, false accusations, property confiscated, imprisonment, death.
 - b. **Indirect** – encroachment from social, work, and home entities invading your spiritual space.
 - i. **Social**: your child’s sports/activity team sets its practice/game schedule for Sunday mornings with the rule of: “No practice; no play.”
 - ii. **Work**: your employer demands that you bill a customer for hours you didn’t earn or whose business practices are not consistent with your Christian faith.
 - iii. **Home**: your daughter moves in with a non-Christian or a non-church-going man. She tells you that this is what people do, in order to find out if they are compatible for marriage.
- b. **“because of Me”** – when your suffering is truly for Jesus’ sake, and not related to stupidity or pride on your part.
- c. **“Rejoice and be glad”** (“leap for joy”) -
- d. **“they persecuted the prophets”** –
 - a. **The Beloved Life Principle #12**: Suffering for your faith connects you to those who _____ before you. This reminds you that you are not _____!