

Meekness, and Hunger for Righteousness Matthew 5:5-6

How can we who are poor in spirit do things which require being rich in spirit?

We are poor in spirit — which means that because of our sin we in ourselves can do nothing spiritual (v.3). So how can Jesus call us to do spiritual things (vv.4-10)?

The order of the beatitudes is crucial. When we start with admitting that we are poor in spirit, humbling ourselves before Jesus as having nothing good in ourselves — and trusting Jesus to forgive us, help us, save us — He brings His power upon us and starts to change us.

But if we randomly pick a beatitude and try to keep it by our own will power — we will fail. We must start by admitting that we are poor in spirit — then the rest will follow.

How does this work with meekness? (5:5)

Meekness is feeling our true lowliness before God and others. It's not just feeling bad — it's about feeling our sinfulness before God — and the wonder that through Christ God has saved us.

So how can we grow in meekness? By starting with the first beatitude. When we admit that we are poor in spirit, and that by faith alone we can have all our sins punished in Jesus — we will feel our lowliness before God and others.

How does this work with hungering and thirsting for righteousness? (5:6)

Righteousness means thinking, feeling, and doing what Jesus commands.

We are to hunger for this — which means longing for it so much that everything else is set aside.

How can we who are poor in spirit do this? When we admit that we are poor in spirit, and mourn for our sin, God will pour upon us His comfort. We will feel His love, experience His all-satisfying presence — and will long for Him above all else.

And then — since we know we will receive more of Him in the path of righteousness — we will long to be righteous.

Communion

Let's do this as we celebrate Communion together.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MERCY HILL CHURCH SPRING-SUMMER 2012

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

On a scale of 1 (meek) to 10 (not meek) how meek are you?

Does it make sense that when we admit our poverty of Spirit to God, trusting Jesus, that we will grow in meekness? Why or why not?

In what situation do you need to be more meek? How can you grow in admitting that you are poor in spirit to Jesus?

On a scale of 1 (hungry) to 10 (not hungry) how hungry for righteousness are you?

Have you experienced the first two beatitudes stirring you to be more hungry for righteousness? Share what happened?

What aspect of righteousness do you need to be more hungry for? How can you use the first two beatitudes to grow in this?

What are you going to do differently because of these Scriptures?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.



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