

Humility (III): Blessed Are The Poor in Spirit

I. Matthew 5:3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

- ◆ The first point in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which is the law of the Kingdom of Heaven, the condition for entering the Kingdom of Heaven, is about “humility.” He says, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* This **“humility” means “spiritual humility,” which means spiritual poverty**, and this spiritual poverty is the exact opposite of the people in the Laodicean church in Revelation, who think they are rich.
- ◆ The eight beatitudes are all related to humility. Only those who are poor in spirit will mourn. Many people have been believers for many years and have never mourned for their poverty in spiritual life. Blessed are the meek, for true meekness comes from a humble heart. You will hunger and thirst for righteousness only if you are humble. Therefore, we must always examine ourselves to see if we are not thirsty, whether we have left the way of the kingdom of heaven, or if we are no longer humble. Blessed are those who are merciful, because only those that are poor in spirit will be merciful to others, and it is because we are poor in spirit that we are pure in heart.

Humility is the key to the kingdom of heaven. These are the conditions for entering the kingdom of heaven, but the most important and fundamental condition is to have a humble heart.

- ◆ **Humility is not an outward gesture, but is the inward character of God**, and it is through this indwelling Christ that humility can be worked out in us.
- ◆ To be humble is to live without self, to forget about self. To be humble is to constantly deny oneself and to be totally connected to God. Humility means to forget oneself and to do what is pleasing to God.
- ◆ None of these eight beatitudes are inherent in us through human efforts, and they don’t come naturally in us. However, only through prayer, God will form His humble characters in us.

II. 1 Peter 5:6 *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.”*

- ◆ This verse says, if you want to be exalted, if you want to be used by the Lord, if you want to please the Lord, if you want to sit on high in heaven, there is only one way—humility. How do you humble yourself? It is through submitting to the power of God.

1. Biblical examples of serving under the power of God

A. 2 Samuel 12:15-23, The LORD struck the child born to David by Uriah’s wife

- ◆ When the child was still alive, David fasted for seven days and refused to get up. When the child died, David got up from the ground, bathed and anointed himself, changed his clothes, went into the house of the LORD and worshiped, and then returned to the palace and ordered a meal to be prepared, and he ate. This is called submission to the power of God.
- ◆ What would you do if you were David? To suffer for seven days and ask the Lord? “O Lord! Please heal, you must let him live!” When you find out that the child is dead, do you not want to say: “God! Don’t you see me fasting like this? Can’t you heal this child?”
- ◆ There are many Christians who are so proud that they act as if God is the one who needs to listen and comply to their command, as if God should listen to whatever he tells Him to do, that if he prays for something, and if it doesn’t come to pass as he wants, he will stumble, or stop praying and ignore God from then on.
- ◆ David humbled himself under the mighty hand of God. He knew that it was the LORD who gave the reward and it was the LORD who took it away. Since the Lord was going to take back his son, he stopped mourning and got up and bathed and anointed and went into the house of the LORD to worship. This is called submitting under the mighty hand of God.
- ◆ A truly humble life is one in which I worship God even though He has taken the child away, and I worship Him in my best clothes and with respect. David knew he could ask as hard as he could so that God would see and have mercy on him, but if the Lord would not, I would still worship Him, and that is the expression of a humble man's life.
- ◆ **Brothers and sisters! Let’s think about ourselves. We pray about things, but still such disasters, blows and setbacks happen, do we still bow down and worship?**
- ◆ Some Christians have been believers for a long time, but when they encounter some disasters, they don’t think as they reasonably think, they quarrel with God, they mess with God, and this is really a prideful life.

B. David and the Ark of the Covenant of God, 2 Samuel 15:25-26

- ◆ When David was chased by his son Absalom, he fled. Zadok and the Levites who carried the ark put it down, but David said, “*Carry the ark of God back to the city.*” In this emergency, when we are fleeing, the ark of God represents God’s presence. **We all like to grasp God’s presence, God’s blessings, but David is a man who submits under God’s power, he will let go, he will not grasp the blessings from outside, because David knows that “*If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back.*”** He knew that the most important thing was to

please God on the inside.

- ◆ Some people call all the pastors to pray for them when they are sick. The question is whether you are doing your best to please God, otherwise it is useless to have more people praying for you.
- ◆ But a humble man who knows God truly wants to please God, so that wherever he kneels, the Holy Spirit fills him. **If I am blessed in the sight of the LORD, if He is pleased with me, He will bring me back!**
- ◆ “Humility is not something that we bring to God, nor is it something that He gives, but humility is realizing that we have nothing and truly seeing that God is everything” said Andrew Murray. So he gave way so that God could accomplish everything. Many times the proud self gets in the way so that the humble God cannot do His work.
- ◆ Pride makes us insecure, humility makes us very secure. When we realize that we have nothing, faith in God and true trust arise within us, and I know that I am in His hands, not in the hands of men, so I am not afraid.
- ◆ Humility has a lot to do with knowing who we are, knowing that I am God’s creation, that I have nothing, and that I look to His grace and His mercy for everything.
- ◆ David humbled himself under the mighty hand of God. **This was not the case with the people of Israel, who did not please God, did not care about the ark, did not care about the presence of God, but when it came to war, they rushed to bring the ark. If you please God all the time, you will have an indescribable faith** that you are in His hands and that He is pleased with you.

C. Abraham and Lot, Genesis 13:8-11, 13:14-15

- ◆ When Lot lifted up his eyes and saw the whole plain of the Jordan, **Abram did not choose first out of fear, but he dared to let go and give way.** The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, *“Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.”*
- ◆ He knew that he has no good apart from God, so he was not afraid that others would choose and take it away first, but God would give him better and more.
- ◆ Brothers and sisters, do you dare to let go and submit to the mighty hand of God? Knowing that God is in charge of everything, humility is a will to surrender, a determination to submit to God, a determination to accept everything God has prepared for me.

- ◆ Humility is indeed the secret to blessings, and it turned out that Lot's gain was so short-lived that it was burned with brimstone, but Abram and his descendants gained forever.
- ◆ **It's important to practice letting go in your life.** The reason why there is so much damage between parents and their children is that parents are afraid to let go of their children, they want their children to become doctors, they want their children to learn the piano, they want their children to learn this and that, but that is not their children's interest. Parents in the Bay Area are advanced intellectuals, who are afraid their children won't have great accomplishments and excel, and so they put a lot of pressure and pain on themselves and their children, but we forget the most important goal. What is the worth of having children who have learned all these things, but do not long for God at all, and do not desire the humility of the Lamb at all? Parents should nurture them to have a heart that desires God and loves to serve Him.
- ◆ We need to learn to let go of the treasure of our hearts, that God alone is our God and all others are our idols. **As we let go, God circumcises our hearts.**
- ◆ Brothers and sisters, if we have been praying for humility and are willing to ask the Lord to shine His light in our lives, a good way to do that is to pray, "Lord, I thank you for this circumstance. I thank you for this child who just doesn't like to read, I thank you for this child who doesn't like to play the piano, Lord, thank you for his health. Lord, you must have your will in this child, thank you for him!" When you keep thanking the Lord for your child, **you give God a way to work on him and let go of the struggle with your child.**

III. Conclusion

Many times when we disobey, we become more and more angry and bitter, which is full of the poison of pride inside. **There is great joy in the humble man, as in the Lord Jesus.**

The Lord Jesus was on earth and He preached a word that people did not accept, but suddenly Jesus rejoiced that this was Your good pleasure! The Lord did not twist their necks, but said that if you have ears to hear, you should hear.

He was despised and rejected on earth. He spoke in a way that people didn't understand, even His disciples didn't understand, He spoke in a way that people didn't accept, they wanted to push Him off a cliff, but Jesus said I have rest in me, and He always rejoiced in such circumstances, and what a humble life He lived before us. **So humility means that you can tolerate people treating you this way, but you still have peace inside.**

Humility (III) Assignment

1. What is the difference between a person's low self-esteem vs. biblical humility?
2. It is the LORD who gives, and it is the LORD who takes away. How did David react when his child died? How did you react when the LORD took away from you?
3. If you were David, would you take the Ark of the Covenant with you when you are on the run? When you were in danger, would you dare to let go and wait for God to save you? David said, "*If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back.*"
4. Do you think God is pleased with you? In what area do you need to improve?
5. If you were Abraham, would you let Lot choose first? If Lot chose the best, would you submit? Where would you feel insecure, so you would grasp?
6. What is your goal in educating your child? Is it according to your expectations, your progress? Or is it according to the will of God?
7. Is there any aspect of your life that you find particularly difficult when it comes to submitting under the mighty hand of God?
8. Scripture memorization: Matthew 5:3-10, 1 Pet. 5:5-6.