Finding Favor with God

"The Kings Speech" Part #10 Noah Largent 5/15/16

Matthew Chapters 5 -7 These three chapters are often referred to as the Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount". The title gets its name from Chapter 5:1 *"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down".*

The three chapters represent the longest uninterrupted teaching of Jesus. The familiar word "Blessed" is found 9 times in the first 11 verses. A good definition for it means "to be in a position of **favor with God**" or "a person who has acquired good fortune". The teaching found in these chapters are among the most challenging set of teaching anywhere in the Bible. Someone once criticized C. S. Lewis for *"not caring for the Sermon on the Mount."* He replied, *"As to 'caring for' the Sermon on the Mount, if 'caring for' here means 'liking' or enjoying, I suppose no one 'cares for' it. Who can like being knocked flat on his face by a sledge hammer? I can hardly imagine a more deadly spiritual condition than that of a man who can read that passage with tranquil pleasure."* [*God in the Dock*, p. 181-82]. Yet as Martin Lloyd Jones points out, "Read the Beatitudes, and there you have a description or what every Christian is meant to be. It is not merely the description of some exceptional Christians." [Studies in the the Sermon on the Mount p.25]

#1 Everyone is hungry but our appetites are not always for things on God's menu.

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who ***hunger*** and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Matthew 6:33 "But ***seek first*** his kingdom and his righteousness"

The principles and values Jesus calls us to in these three chapters are among the most challenging in the entire Bible!

#2 Prayer is essential for a healthy spiritual life.

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray…"

Matthew 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray…"

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Ephesians 1:16- 20 [16] I have not stopped giving thanks for you, **remembering you in my prayers**… **that you may know him better**.

"Paul's prayers for his friends contains no appeals for changes in their circumstances… in these prayers you see not one petition for a better emperor, for protection from marauding armies, or even for bread for their next meal. Rather, what he asked for most frequently for his friends - what he believed was the most important thing God could give them - what is that? It is to know him better." -Keller, "Prayer" p.20

#3 Taking these teachings seriously demonstrates that you belong to God's family.

Matthew 5:44-45 "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] that **you may be children of your Father** in heaven."

John 15:8 "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, **showing yourselves to be my disciples**."

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples**, if you love one another."

#4 How do I get eternal life?

Matthew 7:13 "**Enter through the narrow gate**. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

John 10:9 "**I am the gate**; whoever enters through me will be saved."

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