

The Wisdom of Jesus
Maximum Dependence
Matthew 5:3-5

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Text Introduction: Last week, I issued a challenge for us for 2009. I take our challenge from Luke 2:52 that we grow as Jesus did in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God, and in favor with others. I proposed that we spend one quarter of the year in each of these growth areas. So, this morning, we begin to try to understand what it can mean to grow in wisdom. Our text of study is going to be the Sermon on the Mount. Here's why. The Sermon on the Mount concludes with these words: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Mt. 7:24). Matthew's summary words follow in verse 28-29. "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

So, if you want to grow in wisdom, here is wisdom. Here is "The Wisdom of Jesus." Here's the beginning.

Text: ³ "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
⁵ Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

Introduction: Jesus' message of wisdom begins with a series of sayings that are usually called "The Beatitudes." Each of these sayings begins with the word, "Blessed." The idea is happy. The idea is that Jesus is saying this is truly the person that is going to be happy, thus blessed in life. Now consider the impact of that offer as it relates to wisdom. Don't you want to be happy? Asked a different way, "Don't you want to be "blessed," especially if the one doing the blessing is God? How are we blessed?

Perhaps you are surprised at the kind of person that Jesus labels as happy or blessed. Poor. Mourners. Gentle or Meek. Usually, not the kind or words associated with happy. However, in Jesus' kingdom, these are the attitudes that bring happiness and blessedness.

A real key to interpreting the Beatitudes, especially the beginning Beatitudes is found in Jesus' pronouncement about his life that we find in Matthew 4:17, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." If we are going to have the life that God wants us to have, we must get serious about sin or repent.

What are the Requirements of Repentance?

1. Awareness of Sin in My Life.

"Blessed are the poor in Spirit."

Many will probably say, "I know I am a sinner. I know what I do is wrong." That's not really the idea of being poor in Spirit. This beatitude is really the heart of the Gospel. You can never save yourself. To be poor in spirit is to be totally bankrupt before God.

2 Biblical Examples

The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18ff.) He has done all of these things that Jesus has said to do, so he thinks. And yet it is not enough. Our goodness next to God's holiness is insufficient.

Paul (Philippians 3:3-11) He put no confidence in the flesh, but all his confidence was in Christ.

"Interesting isn't it that God changed name Paul's name from Saul to Paul, but the rich young ruler...well, we don't even know his name. Maybe that's the clearest example of what it means to be poor in spirit. "The one who made a name for himself is nameless. But the ones who called on Jesus' name—and his name only—got new names and, even more, new life." (Max Lucado, *The Applause of Heaven*, 46.)

2. Brokenness over My Sin.

"Blessed are those who mourn"

There is little way that you are going to ever change unless you are broken over sin.

(1) Sin grieves God. (Psalm 51)

(2) Sin separates from God (Psalm 51 and Isaiah 59:2)

The mourning in this passage is directly related to "poor in Spirit."

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 says, "9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing of yourselves, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Listen to this quote by Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe:

"If you want to learn what a person is really like, ask three questions: What makes him laugh? What makes him angry? What makes him weep? These are fairly good tests of character that are especially appropriate for Christian leaders. I hear people saying, "We need angry leaders today!" or "The time has come to practice militant Christianity!" Perhaps, but "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:20). What we need today is not anger but anguish, the kind of anguish that Moses displayed when he broke the two tablets of the law and then climbed the mountain to intercede for his people, or that Jesus displayed when He cleansed the temple and then wept over the city. The difference between anger and anguish is a broken heart. It's easy to get angry, especially at somebody else's sins; but it's not easy to look at sin, our own included, and weep over it."

3. Complete Submission to God.

"Blessed are the Meek"

We are called to be meek as it relates to God. God calls the shots in my life, not me. I am going to submit my life to the rule of the King. The person that submits to God will deal seriously with sin.

In his book I Surrender, Patrick Morley writes that the church's integrity problem is in the misconception "that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior." He goes on to say, "It is revival without reformation, without repentance."

Quoted by C. Swindoll, John The Baptizer, Bible Study Guide, p. 16.

What are the Results of Repentance?

1. Eternal Life
2. Forgiveness
3. Joy
4. Wisdom

Conclusion:

I read about a seminary student who shared this testimony with his class. He recounted as a young boy how he would hit little plastic golf balls in the backyard. One day, he decided that he would hit a real golf ball. The ball went through the window. He heard his mother scream. Running in, he realized that he had hit his mother. Thankfully, she was ok, but he realized that he could have killed his mother. He did some things differently after that.

Now, look at Jesus, bloody and dying. We did that. We ought to do some things differently in response to his love for us.