

DISCIPLESHIP

Part 2

“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Mathew 5:1-12)

The Lord Jesus Christ here had withdrawn from the crowd in order for Him to concentrate to teach His disciples the law of God. Jesus came from heaven to save mankind from sin and death. He came for all; He gave His life for all and His blood was the atonement for our sins when He died on the cross. Jesus after His death was buried but rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to those who obey Him and follow His steps in their lives. Jesus came for all; He came for all the crowd of the people. But those who responded to Him and were willing to obey Him He took them aside and started to disciple them and discipline them to live their lives according to His Word and His teaching. The passage that we chose is from the sermon on the mountain, what is called The Beatitudes. Here the Lord Jesus Christ emphasizes a certain teaching to His disciples; the following is some account of it.

1- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mathew 5:3) Jesus wants His disciples to be humble, not a boasting kind of people. Christians ought to be low profile, living in godly lifestyle with contentment with God and what He had given to them. The disciples of Jesus should not boast and brag. But grateful to whatever God had provided for them as His Word tells us: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” (1 Timothy 6:6-8)*

2- “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Mathew 5:4) The disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ should not be seekers of pleasure or lovers of themselves. There are two words we want to speak here, *‘fast and feast.’* In this regard there are two kinds of people. There are those who are looking for parties and other types of entertainment but later on they need to pay the prize. *“Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment.” (Ecclesiastes 11:9)* The disciples of Jesus should not look for luxuries and squander their resources on worldly pleasure. They are not seekers of worldly things but the kingdom of God. *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Mathew 6:33)* The disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and us among them, we may fast in this life but later on we will feast, and in eternity we will receive our reward.

3- “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Mathew 5:5) The disciples of the Lord Jesus they ought to be humble and gentle as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8) Our Lord humbled Himself when He died on the cross, and we need to humble ourselves as well. God exalted Jesus, and He will bless us as well, and lift us up if we willingly humble ourselves.

4- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (Mathew 5:6) The disciples of Jesus they ought to be hungry and thirsty for righteousness in doing the will of God. The Lord wants us to be more eager to follow His Word and His ways in our living.

5- “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Mathew 5:7) The disciples of Jesus should have love and mercy in their hearts. We should have the same compassion of Jesus for the poor and the needy. We will be shown mercy if we show mercy to others and care for them.

6- “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Mathew 5:8) The disciples of Jesus should have pure heart; there should be no wrong motive in their hearts. Through our journey with the Lord He will test what is in our hearts. *“Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.” (Deuteronomy 8:2)* God would allow trials and hardships in our lives in order to test us and see what is really in our hearts. Are we coming to Him wholeheartedly or still we have divided hearts. Pure heart is what God looking for. Good to pray this prayer: *“Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.” (Psalm 86:11)*

7- “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” (Mathew 5:9) The disciples of Jesus they ought to be peace makers and to bring peace to others. They should not be trouble makers or source of rebelliousness and troubles. The Sons of God are the peacemakers who fight but with faith, prayer, humility and obedient.

8- “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mathew 5:10) The disciples of Jesus would be persecuted because they want to live a godly life. *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Timothy 3:12)* The day you decide to live for God and decide to leave the old life, Satan would fight against you and you will find yourself persecuted. But the Word of God admonishes us the following: *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)* But if you are not yet persecuted it means that you are still under Satan bondage. Persecution is a sign of departure from the old life and to live a new life for God.

My Dear and Beloved: *“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” (Mathew 5:13)* The disciples of Jesus are those who can bring good changes to the people around and those who can preserve the values of the Word of God in this world. The Lord had called you and wants you to be one of them as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to your Word and I am willing to be one of your very true disciples. Teach me Your ways, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*