

LESSON 10: BROKENNESS

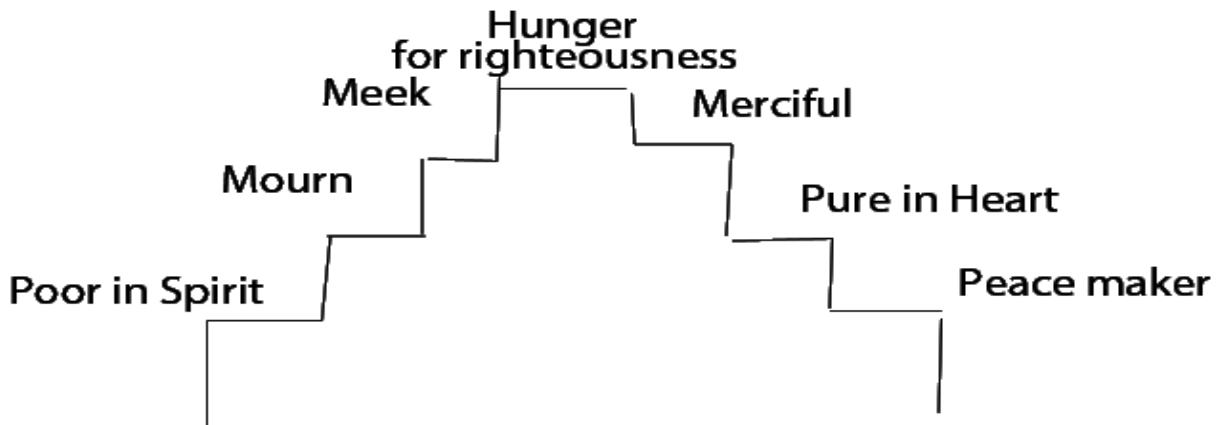
INTRODUCTION

At some point in your life, Christ will break you. There has been an argument in Dallas Theological Journal that the Sermon on the Mount is not for Christians because it is too difficult to live for even Christians. This is correct in that it is impossible to live out the Beatitudes. As Christians, we must come to the place where our Christian life is not difficult to live but impossible on our own. This is why Jesus gave us the Beatitudes.

THE BEATITUDES

Read Matthew 5:3-9

The Beatitudes can be seen as stair steps. First you climb up the stairs of being poor in spirit, mourning, and being meek. On the other end of the staircase is a stark contrast of mercy, pure, and peacemakers.



- ▶ 3. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Poor in spirit—mourn---meek—hunger // mercy/ pure/ peacemaker

There are two Greek words in the New Testament for poor. One means you are poor but can pay your bills but do not have anything left over. The second word for poor means you have nothing and are reduced to begging to be able to live your life. This second Greek word is the word that appears in the Beatitudes.

In this scripture, the meaning of poor in spirit is when you are reduced to begging in your own spirit and not in the Holy Spirit. You are in spiritual poverty.

▶ **4. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**

Once you have reached a place where you are spiritually poverty stricken, you have reached a place where you mourn over the fact that you are a sinner. When you reach the place where you realize these two things, then you also realize that you cannot live the Christian life on your own and you are actually producing bad things instead of good things.

▶ **5. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”**

The word meek or gentle in this passage does not refer to being cowardly, but rather having a teachable spirit. The same word is also used in James 5:20 where it says *“in humility (meekness) receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”* It is important to maintain a teachable spirit. This often occurs after realizing you are spiritually poor and mourning over the fact that you are a sinner and cannot live the Christian life on your own.

▶ **6. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”**

After reaching this point of meekness or having a teachable spirit, you then reach a place where you begin to hunger after God’s righteousness. God will then produce this character in you which leads to the second half of the Beatitudes.

▶ **7. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”**

8. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

9. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Once reaching the point where you hunger and thirst for righteousness, you will then receive the first character of being a person of mercy. There will be a pureness in your heart, and you will wish God’s best for others no matter what that means.

▶ **Brokenness**

Sometimes God has to take us to a point of breaking in order to build us back up to the point of depending on the Holy Spirit. You will never reach a deep hunger for the things of God and He will never produce this character in your life until these things occur in your life. If you still think you can live a Christian life, then you are not to the point of hungering for God. If you have the spirit that says, “I know what the Bible says but...” then you are not hungering after God. If you do not ever get to this point, then God will break you.

WALKING ON WATER

Read Matthew 14:22-32 and Mark 6:47-52

- ▶ What is Jesus response to Peter's falling away?

Frequently in Peter's life, you see a common refrain.

Peter does something good → Jesus praises him → Peter does something stupid → Jesus rebukes him

Peter starts out successful in obeying Christ's demands. He does it right at first, but fails and is then rebuked by Jesus. Jesus clearly rebukes him by saying "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Jesus assumes that the success Peter exhibited should have lasted.

Read John 15:5

- ▶ What does this verse say about success in our lives?

Success should be consistent in your life. As seen earlier, when success does not last, then God rebukes us.

JESUS QUESTIONS THE DISCIPLES

Read Matthew 16:13-28

- ▶ How does Peter respond to Jesus' question? Is this in a similar manner as the previous passage where Peter walks on water?

v. 13-19: He asks the disciples who they think the Son of Man is. Peter replies that He is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. He is correct and Jesus responds by blessing Peter as this was not revealed to him by man but by God. Peter once again reached a point of success.

v. 20-28: Jesus tells the disciples that He will be killed and then raised up again to life. Peter responds to this by pulling Jesus aside and rebuking Him.

- ▶ If Peter recognized Jesus as the Messiah, then why does he rebuke Him?

Success in our lives often leads to pride and arrogance if we are not broken. Jesus responds to this pride in Peter by rebuking him once again even to the point of calling him Satan. Once again Peter had success, then failed, and was rebuked by Jesus.

MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

Read Matthew 17:1-5

- ▶ Does Peter follow the same pattern in this passage?

Once again Peter shows success by being one of only three chosen to go up on the Mount. Jesus is on the mountain talking with Elijah and Moses about His upcoming events in Jerusalem including His death. Having already been rebuked about this once, Peter should have been listening to what was being said. Instead Peter speaks up and says that he will build three tabernacles on the mountain. The problem was that Moses, Elijah, and Jesus were not supposed to stay on the mountain. This time instead of Jesus rebuking him, God Himself rebukes Peter by telling him to listen to His Son.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Read Matthew 26:31-35 and Luke 22:31-34

- ▶ At this point has Peter reached a point of brokenness?

No. Peter's response that he will stay with Jesus even though Jesus says he will leave him clearly shows that Peter thinks he knows better than Jesus. Despite Jesus and God rebuking Peter, he still is not broken. At this point Jesus decides to use a different method.

Satan has come to Jesus' followers and wants a shot at Peter. Satan sends demons to attack Peter. Jesus knows that Peter will fail and deny Him three times, but He still says that he prays for him. Jesus prays...

- ❖ For Peter's faith that after he denied Christ, his pain would not be so deep that Peter won't come back to Christ.
- ❖ That when Peter returns after denying Christ, he will strengthen his brothers.

Read Matthew 26:50-54 and Luke 22:51

- ▶ Is Peter successful in these verses?

Peter is doing exactly what he said he would do by facing death and prison by attempting to fight off the angry mob and cutting the ear off Malcheius. He is successful in his eyes.

Read Matthew 26:57-59

Peter still is successful by not leaving Jesus completely, but we do see a shift in that he following from afar. The demons clearly are attacking Peter. Peter is now scared when before he was fearless.

Read Matthew 26:69-75 and Luke 22:61-62

- ▶ Is Peter successful in these verses?

Right after Peter denies Christ three times, Jesus is being walked out, and according to Luke, Peter and Jesus make eye contact. Peter sees Jesus beaten, swollen, bleeding, and bruised and is devastated at what he has done and wept bitterly. Peter has finally after three years reached

a point of brokenness. Remember the first step to brokenness is reaching the point where in your spirit you realize that you cannot do anything on your own.

AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Read John 21:15-23

- ▶ How does Peter respond to Jesus questions this time?

Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him. Every time Peter responds that he does, but the last time he also is grieved that Jesus would continue to ask. Jesus goes on to tell Peter about what will happen to him in his life to come. Peter does not argue, but simply asks about John. Jesus tells Peter not to worry about John. The big change is that Peter listens, accepts Jesus' statement, and does not argue. These are signs of being broken and depending on Jesus.

PENTECOST

Read Acts 2:22-24

In the same place, Jerusalem, that Peter denied Christ, he now stands up for Him. He looks into the face of those whom he denied Christ to and tells them that they killed Jesus, but God raised Him from the dead. He also preaches of the need for repentance. This bold preaching leads to Peter being imprisoned and ultimately crucified. Legend has it that Peter told them he was not worthy of dying as His Lord did and he wanted to be crucified upside down.

It took Christ 3 years of this scenario to break him, and what finally broke him was when he saw the face of Jesus. When Jesus looked at him, Peter finally realized I can't do it. Peter does mess up in one place before the Holy Spirit comes into the disciples. Even after brokenness, we all keep our personalities and will continue to mess up sometimes.

CONCLUSION

If you look back at the stair steps at the beginning of the lesson, you can see that Peter went through every step throughout his life. He realized when Jesus looked him in the eyes right after Peter denied him that he was poor in spirit and could not do it on his own. He then mourns because he hurt Jesus. He shows that he has a teachable spirit when Jesus tells him that he will die for his beliefs. He hungers after the truth and is merciful, pure in heart, and a peacemaker throughout the rest of his life by preaching salvation to others and willingly accepting the imprisonment and death he faced for Christ.

We all must go through a similar situation before we can live out the Sermon on the Mount. Have you had this moment yet? Are you depending on Christ for everything or do you still think you can do it on your own? This is the first step to being broken. God will continue to pursue

you and break you. Everyone's situation is different, but we must learn to depend on God for everything before He can work effectively through us.