

GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOTHING LIKE THIS WORLD

Matthew 5:1-5

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: When Jesus said that "...the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand..." He was opening up an entirely new way of thinking. We are born here on this earth and this is all anybody knows therefore we cannot begin to understand what God's coming Kingdom of Heaven is like even though believers in Jesus Christ have become members of God's coming Kingdom of Heaven. Upon becoming a Christian one is to begin to change his/her living habits and manners to better fit God's Kingdom. When reading the "Sermon on the Mount" everything seems to be different from how things are here in our world. For instance, the members/citizens of God's Kingdom, in our thinking, should be the best, the brightest, the most worthy, strongest, bravest, etc....however, that is not how God's Kingdom is for God's Kingdom belongs to the poor, the nameless, the outcasts of our world, people whom we think would never be accepted or qualified to belong to God's Kingdom.

Let's take a look at some whom Jesus called "blessed," to be congratulated.

I. THE SPIRITUALLY DESTITUTE (Matthew 5:3)

1. Not those who lack money, material wealth, but those who are lacking spiritual wealth but those who are:
 - Spiritually destitute, spiritual paupers, spiritually bankrupt.
 - Spiritual failures, Spiritual wash-outs.
2. How is it "blessed" to be a spiritual nobody?
 - They are convinced that there is nothing they can do to be right with God.
 - They have nothing to offer God but are totally dependent upon God's grace and mercy.
 - They need God because they are a nobody.
3. Remember the Pharisee and the Publican's prayers?
 - The Pharisee thought he could impress God with what all he was doing and had done.
 - The Publican (tax collector) knew he had nothing to offer and asked for God's mercy.
4. If YOU are a spiritual beggar, if you are spiritually bankrupt, if you have nothing to impress God with, if you need God's grace, then "congratulations" for you are "blessed" and will fit right in God's Kingdom.
5. However, it is sad that so many are like the Pharisee who think that they are doing alright and don't begin to understand just how much they need God. If they don't need God's Grace, then they won't be in God's Kingdom.

II. THE DEEPLY TROUBLED (Matthew 5:4)

1. Why is it that those who are troubled, suffering, sad, hurt, disappointed, discouraged, crushed or in despair are the ones to be "blessed" and welcome to God's Kingdom?
2. Being deeply troubled hardly seems a reason to be congratulated however that's what Jesus said.
"...blessed are those who 'mourn and groan..."

- Sorrow is a reason for joy and celebration BECAUSE it causes one to realize just how bad and terrible this world really is.
- The sting of death, the corruption of disease, the pain of broken relationships all make us realize that this is not the perfect place we once thought it was.

3. When we are sad and mourn we can recognize that this world is really NOT our home and that God's Kingdom is so much better.
 - Realizing that this world is not the perfect place because of our troubles and woes, makes us the kind of people that belong to the Kingdom of God.
 - As long as things go well we forget that this is not really our home and if we get too comfortable here, we won't be anxious to leave it and go to our real home, so God sends pain, sorrow discomfort and disappointment to us to remind us of where we actually belong.

III. THE TOTALLY INADEQUATE

(Matthew 5:5)

1. To us "meek" is a sissy, a weakling but was Moses a sissy, a weakling? Yet he has been described as the "meekest" of all of his time.
 - Remember when God told Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and Moses said he couldn't do it? I'm not the man, I don't have what it takes, I just can't do it.
 - Yet with God's power, God's ability, God's leading, Moses did a miraculous things.
2. The "I can do it" people are self-confident, optimistic, take charge kind and know what to do people.
 - The "I can't do it", "I don't have what it takes" people are hesitant, halting, slow and have little confidence in themselves, expecting to fail or not do anything at all.
 - IF YOU are one of these "weaker" person, then "congratulations" for you are the kind of person who belongs in God's Kingdom.
3. If you're the kind of person who can do just about anything, having a lot of self-confidence, trusting in your own skills, abilities, strengths and knowledge, you don't need to rely on God so much, then God's Kingdom is not for you.
 - If you are likely to turn to God and rely upon Him for just about everything, His strength, His wisdom, His presence, then you are the kind of person that will make up God's Kingdom.
 - "Can-do-it-myself" people don't seem to need God as much as those who feel totally inadequate.

CONCLUSION:

1. Which are you? How much do you need God? *"...Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven..."*
 - How dependent are children upon their parents? From their viewpoint? From the parent's viewpoint?
2. If you are spiritually bankrupt, deeply troubled, dismayed, totally inadequate, helpless, Congratulations!
3. God allows troubles in our lives to remind us that this is not the place for us but His Kingdom is.
4. God uses things to drive us to Him. Are you a member of God's Kingdom?