

## **"THE BLESSEDNESS OF POSSESSING NOTHING"**

**Mt. 5:3    Gen. 22:1-19    Mt. 16:24-25**

- 1. Before God made man, He got everything ready - all that man would ever need or want.**
- 2. God made for Himself a throne deep in the heart of man (within man was God - without was a thousand gifts which God had showered upon man).**
- 3. But sin came in and reversed what God had done: Things too<sup>k</sup> over God's throne and took first place in man's heart and God was pushed to the outside of man's heart.**
- 4. "Me, my, mine, Self" are words that describe man's real nature:**
  - Things have become NECESSARY to us, that which God NEVER intended**
  - God's gifts to man have now taken God's place in man's heart.**
- 5. Jesus said: Mt. 16:24-25**
- 6. Within each of us is an enemy called "SELF" and it's end is to possess all it can possibly possess.**
- 7. The ONLY way to have and know God is to dethrone SELF, lose everything and the only way to do that is by the Cross of Christ.**
- 8. Gen. 22:1-19**
- 9. Tell the story - describe the old man's excitement and love for his son - then how he wrestled all night about slaying his loved son - none could have agonized more except the Lord Jesus.**
  - Abraham took his loved son to slay him and God stopped him -why?**
- 10. Abraham had given EVERYTHING to God!**
- 11. THE SECRET: Abraham still had everything but possessed NOTHING! Me, My, Mine, Self had been dethroned and God had taken His rightful place in Abraham's life.**
- 12. It is hard to give up family and friends as we fear for their safety, yet Christ came to save, not to destroy. All is safe with Him - give up those precious to you to the Lord.**
- 13. Gifts and talents also are to be given up - they are loans from God to man anyhow.**
- 14. A warning! Me, Mine, Self will defend themselves! Excuses, "reasons" and everything they can come up with will be flung at you - Battles will be fought!**
- 15. One must put down every trick of the deceitful heart and be determined to dethrone SELF and give God His rightful place in the heart.**
- 16. Self must be dethroned as pulling a bad tooth, as a weed must be jerked out of a garden and it will cry, plead, beg to stay.**

**17. If you would know God then you must give God His rightful place in your heart - the THRONE first place!**

**18. Ask God to root out all that has taken His rightful place!**

**Father, we want to know Thee, but our coward heart fears to give up its toys. We cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and we do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. We come trembling, but we do come. Please root from our heart all Those things which we have cherished so long and which have become a very part of our living self, so that Thou mayest enter and dwell there without a rival. Then shalt Thou make the place of Thy feet glorious. Then shall our heart have no need of the sun to shine in it, for Thyself wilt be the light of it, and there shall be no night there.**

**In Jesus' Name, Amen.**