

The Teachings of Jesus Christ -- The Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

The monumental significance and unparalleled power within this teaching of the Lord Jesus is that He provides us the “Keys” to:

- (a) Having Godly / God-like character (Representation of the Divine Character of Christ)**
- (b) Having Relationship, harmonious Fellowship with the Lord (Access to Him through obedience, leading to deliverance) & Having harmonious relations with one another**
- (c) Receiving mercy and having favor with God**
- (d) How to demonstrate “Heavenly Citizenship” on earth before men and be “perfect” (sincere, true, honorable) representatives of Jesus Christ**
- (e) How to live “within” the world but not be “of” the world (Romans 12:1-2) Transformed**
- (f) How to operate in a manner where we would have “good success” and we would receive the blessings of God (Deuteronomy 28) instead of cursings**
- (g) Having knowledge regarding our “weaponry” (two-edged sword) against the forces of evil and snares of worldly philosophies (dogma), thus keeping us liberated (without barriers) in Christ because we treasure these “jewels” of God instead of the things of the world - - Matt. 7:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”**

When these “character-traits” of God are where our “heart” (mind, emotions) is and undeniably “treasured” by those of us who represent Christ (Christians), then we are obeying Christ and performing exactly what he commanded: Be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Jesus commands us to be the “flavor” of the world...Who loves to eat food without flavor? We are to bring flavor or “life” to those who are without Relationship with God and therefore have “flavorless” lives. Salt in moderation provides health to the body in providing necessary “electrolytes” to the body so that the body can function properly! Question: What can one accomplish in a dark room or in the darkness? When we display these character-traits of Christ in our lives, then we bring “our” light which represents the glory of God to the “darkness” of the hearts of men. This is what perpetuates the “Breach” between God and man - - man continuing to “treasure” his saltless, dark, disobedient, prideful, ungodly ways instead of incinerating them and humbling himself before God!

Matthew 5:3...What does humility mean? One does not have an inflated view of his own importance and does not view himself as “kingly” and views others as peasants. Those who have those philosophies will definitely NOT have the other “Christ-characteristics” because the others: mournful, meekness, hunger/thirst for righteousness (justice), merciful, pure in heart (sincere), and persecuted for having Christ’s Characteristics, are structured upon being HUMBLE or having HUMILITY! HUMILITY is the foundation upon which all these other characteristics are built upon. Synonyms of humble: meek, respectful, unassuming / unassuming (without self-inflated worth), submissive (ready to comply to the authority or will of others), self-depreciating (critical of oneself and recognizing the fallacies of oneself instead of highlighting the “fallacies” of others), subdued (quiet spirit and not contentious), & chastened (displaying character of having been Disciplined). Our society is in a “drought” when it comes to HUMILITY and two critical areas of humility we hardly see is selflessness and repentance - - Lack of humility creates selfishness / callousness (insensitivity). Transgressors NEVER confess and bring light to their imperfections, faults, fallacies, mistakes, errors, etc. It’s NEVER their fault...it is ALWAYS someone else’s fault because they are NEVER wrong!

God REQUIRES / COMMANDS HUMILITY! Micah 6:8, “He (God) hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk **HUMBLY** with thy God?” 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people, which are called by My name, shall **HUMBLE THEMSELVES**, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” - - Humility puts us in a glorious position to receive “Divine Attention” from the Lord in our time of crisis! Psalm 51:17, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite (remorseful, regretful, penitent, apologetic) heart, O God, Thou will not despise”; Psalm 34:18, “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and **SAVETH** such as be of a contrite spirit”; Isaiah 57:15, “For thus saith the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Revive / Hebrew: haya -- keep alive, make alive, give life, nourish, quicken, recover, repair, restore, restore to life, save, save life, God save, be whole); Psalm 147:3, “He (God) healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds” (Heal -- mend, repair, make whole) (Wounds -- griefs, pains, agonies). Psalm 147:11, “The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear (reverence, respect, humble) Him, in those that hope in His mercy” - - Psalm 147:19, “He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him: He also will hear their cry, and will **SAVE** them!” James 4:10, “**HUMBLE** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.” Proverbs 22:4, “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.”

It is of vital importance to understand this: One cannot have a Relationship with The Lord until they are **HUMBLE** first - - the “foundation” of Fellowship with The Lord is **HUMILITY!** Society has issue with taking responsibility (ownership) for their actions and repenting, seeking penitence, or apologizing for them - - this character trait poses a colossal barrier in having Relationship with God: One must **FIRST** be sorry for living in disobedience of God’s Ways (**REPENTANCE**), sincerely asking The Lord for forgiveness, & acknowledge their sins before God by taking ownership (**CONFESSION**) of their errors, mistakes, & transgressions which were contrary to the Ways of God. This is an acknowledgement that The Lord **IS** God, He alone is Sovereign & Holy, and His Ways are Right! Then comes more humility through acknowledging Jesus as God’s Son, giving His Blood as Atonement, and being Resurrected (**BELIEF**) and asking The Lord to come into one’s life to save them and be their Saviour from now into eternity (**DECLARATION**). There are ones who believe they have not sinned, that they have done nothing wrong and do not need to Confess, Repent, Believe, & Declare (Self-Righteous)...Proverbs 28:13, “He that covereth his sins **SHALL NOT PROSPER** (to flourish, blossom, progress, & be successful in the Lord): but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” We are not born in the Garden, we are born here on sinful earth under the “banner” of sin - - Romans 3:23, “For **ALL** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Therefore one is doomed until their connection from the “banner” is broken - - a decision must be made to live as one chooses or live as God commands!

For those who choose God, they receive His Justification and God takes pleasure (approves) in their humility and Responds...Luke 18: 9-14, “And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners (obtaining things by force / threats), unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth (hold in very high regard, inflated view of oneself) shall be abased (belittled, humiliated, brought low); and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” Paul declared in 1 Timothy 1:14-15, “And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I AM CHIEF (HUMILITY). Paul did not glory in his accomplishments / abilities, but in Jesus Christ saving him from his sins!

The humility of the Canaanite dealing with a crisis (“God blesses those who realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of heaven is given unto them” -- Matt. 5:3 NLT) - - - Matthew 15:21-28, “Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David (HUMILITY); my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away for she crieth after us (lack of humility by the disciples). But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him (HUMILITY), saying Lord, help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children’s (worthy Jews) bread, and to cast it to dogs (undeserving Gentiles who honored idols). And she said, Truth, Lord (HUMILITY-- Lord, You are right!): yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table (HUMILITY). Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith (humility): be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” Proverbs 22:4, “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.”

Humility opens our hearts to respond to God’s Commands with the willingness (obedience) and joy of a child - - Matthew 18: 1-4, “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall HUMBLE himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” One meaning of greatest is “mighty” - - Want to have a “mighty” relationship with the Lord? Want the Lord to Deliver you in a “mighty” way? Be humble as a child who is obedient to his/her parents, and with a willing, joyful, child-like heart do as the Lord commands. The heart of one who is an “adult” or “grown” does as he or she pleases, and exhibits “self-reliance”, but the heart of a “child” reverences the Lord as Parent (Heavenly Father), does as He pleases, and relies on Him in acknowledgement of his/her own helplessness.

Our own Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God, was the Perfect example of humility...Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God unselfishly, mercifully, & lovingly clothed Himself in humanity and became sin to appease The Father, becoming the Atonement for sins so that we could be Justified in the eyes of God and have Relationship with Him now and throughout Eternity: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). The Lord came into the world as “The Light”, yet He is rejected by the world because men hate light/Light in desiring to continue performing their evil deeds. Jesus’ humility: Philippians 2: 5, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he HUMBLED Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”...The Power, Rewards, & Benefits of HUMILITY!

Humility not only nurtures harmonious Relationship with God, but harmonious relationship with others... 1 Corinthians 1:10, “Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” - - to make this reality there must exist a “poor spirit” (HUMILITY). Galatians 5:15, “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another!” We already have the devil as our adversary who is determined to destroy us... WHY would we deliberately choose or even through ignorance become enemies to one another? Without humility, and viewing ourselves in a “high” fashion, we will turn upon one another (biting & devouring) and irreverence one another - - Proverbs 29:25, “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife...” Prov. 13:10, “Only by pride cometh contention...” Romans 12:3, “For I say through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly (considerate, unselfish, helpful = HUMILITY) according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...” 1 Peter 5:5, “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject to one another, and be CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the HUMBLE.”

What characteristic contrasts humility? PRIDE!!! Pride is the quality of having an excessively high opinion of oneself and one’s importance - - Synonyms: arrogance, vanity, self-importance, conceitedness, self-love, self-admiration, narcissism, egoism, haughtiness, snobbery, big-headedness. There are seven (7) things the Lord hates - - Pride is one of them for pride is the barrier that obstructs one from having harmonious Relationship with God:

Proverbs 6:16-19, “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea seven are an abomination unto Him: A PROUD LOOK, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” Proverbs 8:13, “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward (perverse, stubborn) mouth, do I (God) hate.” Pride is equated to wickedness and pride ignites one’s own destruction:

Psalm 147:6, “The Lord lifteth up the meek (humble): He casteth the wicked (evil, prideful) down to the ground.”

Proverbs 15:29, “The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous

Proverbs 29:23, “A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit”

Proverbs 18:12, “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility”

Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”

Proverbs 21:4, “An high look (haughty eyes), and a proud heart, and the plowing (actions) of the wicked, is sin”

Proverbs 11:2, “When pride cometh, then cometh shame...”

Proverbs 16:5, “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord...”

Ecclesiastes 7:8, “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is BETTER than the proud in spirit”

Psalm 101:4-5, “A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off: him that hath an HIGH LOOK and a PROUD HEART will not I suffer”

Who in his arrogancy demonstrated such pride and God “cut him off?” In whose heart was the genesis of such evil?! Isaiah 14:12-15 (also reference Ezekiel 28: 13-28), “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” What a colossal fall of one who was an “angel of light” in Heaven known as Lucifer, the daystar or shining one, but fell and was abased, “brought down to hell”, and was renamed Satan or the adversary! Pride can eradicate one from the “highest of highs” to the “lowest of lows.” Not only did he fall, but other angelic beings because of their pride & disobedience were cast down also: Jude 6, “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.” 2 Peter 2:4, “...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.” Pride originated from Satan himself and it opposes the Will of God and the Character of God. Pride is an enemy of God and the Sovereign, Omnipotent God will cast down prideful spiritual beings AND prideful earthly beings:

(Daniel 4) Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (world power) was basking and flourishing in his “sovereignty” when he had a vision (dream) - - he saw a great tree in the middle of the earth which in height & strength reached the heavens for the world to see. It had green leaves, was loaded with fruit, animals lived in its shade, & birds nested in it. Then a heavenly messenger shouted, “cut down the tree, shake off the leaves, scatter the fruit, chase away all the animals from it, but leave the stump and roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Now let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live like an animal instead of a human.”

Daniel told him that God was going to terminate his sovereignty and make him live like an animal until he understands that God the most High rules in the kingdom of men and He does what He wants to. Twelve months later as he was on the roof of his palace, overlooking the great city of Babylon, taking pride in his power and accomplishments, God spoke, “The kingdom is departed from thee!” He was driven from society, he ate grass like an ox, drenched with heaven’s dew, his hair grew long as eagles’ feathers, and his nails were like birds’ claws! Nebuchadnezzar’s declaration when his “understanding returned unto him”: “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: AND THOSE THAT WALK IN PRIDE HE IS ABLE TO ABASE” (Daniel 4:37).

Reference: Daniel 5 - The Downfall of Belshazzar

(Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson). “And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not HUMBLLED thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast LIFTED UP THYSELF against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver and gold, of brass, iron, wood and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breadth is, and whose are all thy ways hast thou not glorified” (5:22-23) -- -- “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain” (5:30)

Matthew 5:6: “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

(A) Those who have a “spiritual hunger” and “spiritual thirst” for the Lord (Intimacy, Fellowship, Friendship) and diligently pursue it:

Psalm 42:2, “My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God”

Psalm 63:1, “O God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is”

Psalm 143:6, “I stretch forth my hands unto Thee: my soul thirsteth after Thee, as a thirsty land”

Psalm 63:5, “My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips”

Psalm 103:5, “Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s”

Psalm 107:9, “For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness”

Isaiah 58:11, “And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy they soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not”

John 4:14, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life”

John 6:35, “I am the bread of life: He that cometh to me shall NEVER hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall NEVER thirst

*****Seeking and allowing the Lord Jesus Christ to satisfy our “spiritual hunger” and “spiritual thirst” deadens a potential “appetite” for the vanities (power, possessions, sexual relations, food, luxuries, drugs, etc.) of this world!**

(B) Those who are passionate to see righteousness and justice executed in this life - - they long to see honesty, integrity, justice in this global society. They will be satisfied because God declares: “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind (upon the heart)” Isaiah 65:17. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up...Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3: 10 & 13). “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:1-2).

The perverted perform evil acts and convince themselves their actions are unseen by God and they will not be punished...“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God” (Ecclesiastes 8: 11-13)

Understand, NO ONE shall escape the Judgment of God...

Proverbs 15:3, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good”

Ecclesiastes 3:17, “I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work”

Ecclesiastes 11:9, “Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment”

Ecclesiastes 12:14, “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”

Example of Divine Retribution: Judges 1: 4 - 7

“And Judah went up; and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men. And they found Adoni-bezek in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites. But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes. And Adoni-bezek said, Threescore and ten kings (70), having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered meat under my table (ate his scraps like a dog): as I have done, so GOD HATH REQUITED ME. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.”