

Intro: Continue our Series on “Overflow” Jn 10:10 *“I have come that you might have life...have it overflowing”*
Three ways that happens: Three spiritual streams that feed our Spiritual life

~Living Like Jesus: ~Loving Like Jesus: ~Learning From Jesus

Matt 5:1-13: Page 683

~Sermon On Mount: Early in Ministry, Laying out Ground Rules: Disciples and Crowds
If you want to be my follower...be my disciples...follow in my footsteps: Life is like THIS!

~8 Times uses the same word: Blessed: Lit = Happy (That’s what we ALL want, right?) World pursuing it all we have! Few

- ~Happy ~Satisfied
- ~Joyful ~State of soul satisfaction
- ~Peaceful ~Rightness of life *“this is the way life is “supposed” to be!”*

Illus: That feeling that you get when you KNOW...you are where you are supposed to be, doing what you were created to be doing, and making a difference in the world that truly counts!

~Distinctively Different: Unique

- Internal: Wells up from within
- Regardless of Circumstance: Some of what Jesus says is counter intuitive: Happy when suffer?
- Work of Spirit: Never “create” this yourself, can’t “will yourself” Work of God within

~Later in sermon, talk about Details: Actions: Before that...Get your attitude right! Right Actions vs Attitudes

~Attitude is Everything! Story of Henry Ford and Fire

8 Attitudes The Nurture A Happy Life:

Opposite of Everything You have been taught before about happiness!

1. I NEED God In My Life.

Vs 3

- **Poor in Spirit:** Lit = *those who live in abject poverty of Spirit:*
- Realize they DESPERATELY need God
Illus: Different levels of poor, right? US poor; 1st world poor: NO Car 3rd World Poor: No food, med, hope
Poor in spirit says: I have NOTHING without God. Spiritually I am destitute, w/o Him I will NEVER have hope!
- Many of us think of God as a nice “addon” in our life. Its nice to have Him there when we need Him, OK without Him
Here Jesus is telling us, if you want to have a happy life, be spiritually blessed, attitude: I NEED GOD!
Illus: Last week Dr. Dew telling story, Going to school every day, while he was talking...I was weeping..MY STORY
Rick Amato says it this way: “When you realize Jesus is all you have, you understand, Jesus is all you NEED!

Q: Have you come to that place? Where you know you are lost without Him? That you can’t make it on your own?
That’s what needed in order to know Him, and that’s what’s needed in order to find Him...and true satisfaction

2. I Am Truly SORRY For Sin: Mine and Others

Vs 4

- **Blessed are those who mourn:** Lit = *to be broken hearted and authentically sorrowful for things done wrong*
Sometimes it is me, Sometimes it is our world: See the Consequences of Sin...Breaks our hearts
Chicago: Another Mass Shooting: Va and NY: Awful Abortion Bill Celebrated: Houston: Church Abuse
- If we are honest, most of us give ourselves a pass when we do the wrong thing.
- We rationalize...We excuse...We avoid responsibility...We blame others...We refuse to admit...We justify
- Jesus says: Get over yourself: When you DO the wrong thing...Admit it...understand the consequences
- Bible says: For the wages of sin is death: When we sin something dies
~Sense of closeness and connectedness to God ~Relationship with the one we hurt/offended
~Trust with those we violated ~Right sense in our own heart
~Reputation ~Opportunity for future

Something dies...and when we realize that truth...It leads us to mourn...to be sorrowful...To weep for loss

Illus: Couple months ago: You really hurt me: I thought I was being funny...NOT (Not first time!)

When we mourn, Comforted by Spirit of God...when we are truly repentant

3. I Don’t Have To Be First!

Vs 5

- **Blessed are the Meek:** Lit = *those who have their strength under control and do not have to be 1st, Important!*
Interesting Word: Wind (Soft breeze) Sunlight: (Evening/Morning light) Sound (Whisper) Horse (Gentle, Broken)
In our world meekness = weakness: Nothing father from the truth: Strength under control!
Jesus is teaching us to humble ourselves under the hand of God, trust HIM, allow Him to have His way
- This is so much against what we have been taught! Look out for #1; Take care of you; You do you!
- Jesus is telling us...NO: That might be how you “get ahead” in this world, but NOT in His world: Not Kingdom
- If you want to be First in the Kingdom of God...Then it is not a race to the top...it is a race to the bottom!
Mt 23:11-12 *“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Here is what Jesus is teaching us. Trust God to put you where HE wants you! And when He puts you there...whether it be president of potwasher...be satisfied and at peace with what HE calls you too! You Don't have to be first, important, powerful, significant, respected or looked up to. Don't have to be in charge, asked for your opinion or insight. God raises people up...and He sets them down...and you simply trust in Him!

4. I Want What God Says Is Best In Life.

Vs 6

- **Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness:** Lit = *An ongoing strong desire and need for what God says is good*
- This is one of the basic attitudes of life! We all struggle with the internal pull: What I want...What God wants!
- It goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden: Every tree but One! But God...it Looks SO GOOD!
- We fight that same battle every single day! We know what God says...But we disagree...See a better path!

Illus: When I graduated from HS: Go to bible college: No...I want Live on Road: My Father, Money, Travel, That was the worst 2 or 3 years of my spiritual life: Got away from Him, Church, Back to old life...AWFUL!

You have to settle this issue if you are going to be a follower of Jesus. Can't follow half heartedly. Only when it is convenient, only when you agree with what He says, or like what he says, or want what he says. You have to Him completely

5. I Don't Have To Get Even.

Vs 7

- **Blessed are the merciful:** Lit = *those who extend grace and forgiveness; don't extract price for wrongdoing*
- Here is what bible says: Mt 6 Lords Prayer: *Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors*
Col 3 *Forgive as the Lord forgave you!*
- When we learn to extend grace and pardon toward real offences we are just like Jesus! We don't strike back!
- We learn to forgive...freely...and without condition, Just like God forgives us, instead of carrying hurt and pain
- There is a freedom in life that comes when we learn to forgive, release and extend grace to those that hurt us

Illus: Bitterness is like drinking poison and hoping the other person dies! Instead we forgive extend grace

6. I Live For An Audience Of One.

Vs 8

- **Pure in heart:** Lit = *to be sincere and honest; without hidden motives, agendas or selfish interests: INSIDE (HONEY)*
- The pure in heart say, "I want to please God?" And if along the way, pleases you, wonderful, but I must please Him
- When we get to the place that we don't have to please everyone around us, and not even ourselves..but please Him
- Then we will remove all the obstacles from between us, and our relationship will be what we, and HE want it to be

Illus: GWhitefield: Quoted it so often you probably sick of it. But we NEED that reminder, "And when I die..."

You see, if you please HIM...then it doesn't matter what everyone else around you thinks. One that matters...Happy!

7. I Seek Peace With God and Man.

Vs 9

- **Blessed are peacemakers:** Lit = *Far apart and bring together*
- *It is the nature of God to bring peace where there is animosity, we should too!*
- Eph 2:14-22 God took those far away...brought them back to himself: And reconciled to Him, one another!
- One of the marks of Jesus was the gentle spirited way in which He brought people back to God
- Always reaching, Always open, Always forgiving, Always slowly winning them to himself and to God
- We are never more like Jesus than when we are bringing people back into relationship with God: Enmity to Sons!

Illus: When was the last time you did that? When did you last find someone far from God...bring them back to Him!

Find someone with a heart heavy, broken, alienated and angry...and shower it with the love of Christ, BE LIKE HIM
Maybe today YOU are far away. You feel alienated from God, can't hear His voice...Impossible to live this way!

8. I Am Willing To Sacrifice To Walk With God.

Vs 10

- **Blessed are persecuted, rejected, reviled:** Lit = *Blessed when you pay a price to follow Jesus!*
- Jesus told us that was going to be the case In this world will have trouble: Be of good cheer! I have overcome
- We want to believe that in our world...we will be accepted, respected, and allowed to live freely. Not True

Illus: Mention God generically, everything ok, BUT: Start to talk about Jesus: People need to know Him...See what

CONCL: Jesus is talking to his disciples....and to the crowd that gathers...and He can tell...They want to follow
They are spiritually hungry, eager to know Him, learn from Him...BE LIKE HIM

So, HE preaches a sermon...but before He gets into the details...the actions....

He says: Following ME is a matter of the heart! It's NOT just getting all the ACTIONS Right...ATTITUDE

Being a disciple means, God has permission to change you...transform you...From the inside out. And it will show!

Try to do this in your own strength...destined to fail...But: If you

- Know you NEED GOD: That is the core of everything else. Starts with Him. Not just generically, But at your core
- God, I can't make it without you.
- Last week, Dr Dew talking about that moment for Him, Nothing else to turn to, No where else to go, ONLY GOD!
If that's where you are, trying to live this way...but it's not working..Of course not...Only come from Spirit within