

KINGDOM NORMS AND VALUES Prt 3

Let me start by saying; there is a way in which progress, success and blessedness is defined by the world. Without realizing it, the church has taken on the ideals of success as defined by the world.

- For a moment, let's consider what is termed success and blessedness by the world:
 - The depth of your pocket is the measure of your blessedness
 - The net worth of your network is the measure of your success
 - Being likeable is a measure of your success
 - Wearing size 30 is the measure of beauty
 - The size of your house and car is the measure of your progress

This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **BLESSEDNESS THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS**.

- As you can see, the world standard of blessedness has to do with physical possession and appearance only.
- Worldly success is about what you possess on the outside but kingdom blessing starts with what you possess on the inside.
- Every believer needs to appreciate that Jesus wants to bless them and to bless them good. Jesus can give you all that and even more.
- Kingdom blessing works from the inside out – your inner environment determines your level of blessedness.
- As long as the inner environment is right, the manifestation of your blessedness on the outside will eventually show up.

Matthew 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain. And when He had sat down, His disciples came to Him. 2 And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit! For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

1. Be aware of your spiritual poverty.

- The greatest blessing in life is knowing that you have eternal life. Without eternal life, all the success of this world is vanity.
- The temporary and short life on earth is meant to prepare us for the eternal life. When you have the kingdom of heaven in you, it means you have eternal life in you.
- Jesus taught His hearers on how to access the kingdom of heaven – the kingdom of heaven is accessed by those who are aware of their spiritual poverty.
- Being aware of your spiritual poverty will prompt you to seek for the eternal blessings of God's kingdom
- Being poor means you lack capacity to acquire certain things, it means you worry about the basic things of life and that you are on the lookout for help.

KINGDOM NORMS AND VALUES Prt 3

- A spiritually poor person is not satisfied with his condition, this person stretches out for help and for an opportunity to come out of that place.
- When you are spiritually poor, it means that you have no capacity to command things in the spirit, your words are lightweight.
- It is when you realize your poor condition that you cry to Jesus the son of David for spiritual riches and nourishment.

2. Grieve over sin

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn! For they shall be comforted.

- Jesus gives us another dimension of blessedness. In His view, the way you deal with sin is a measure of your blessedness.
- How you deal with sin in your life determines your level of blessedness.
- Jesus says the way to deal with sin is to mourn over it and He calls this state as being blessed.
- Mourning over one's sin results in Godly sorrow and Godly sorrow gives you access to God's grace and consolation.
- It grieves God when we take sin lightly because it undermines His Holiness, it undermines the suffering that took place on Calvary.
- You access the forgiveness of God by taking sin seriously – many believers have a habit of minimizing sin and the effect of sin on God.
- Jesus says that in order to experience God's peace and comfort, you and I need to mourn and grieve over sin.
- God's consolation and peace gives us access to the abundance that is found in God
- There is nothing as unsettling as walking with a stone in your shoes. It is an uncomfortable experience.
- This is exactly the same as living with sin. Think about the discomfort of being in a relationship with someone whom you have sinned against.

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened so that it cannot save, nor is His ear heavy so that it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have come between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, from hearing.

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more ..."

KINGDOM NORMS AND VALUES Prt 3

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Do not live a sin conscious life but rather live a holy conscious life

3. Possess a meek attitude

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek! For they shall inherit the earth.

- This is one of the few moments that Jesus equates blessedness with having access to material things of this world.
- Inheriting the earth gives us a picture of having access to good health, wealth, comfort and safety.
- It means living a life free of worrying about the basic needs for survival.
- Many people think that being a Christian means that you should not aspire to live a good life. When you believe God for a decent life, you acknowledging His willingness and ability to meet your needs.
- Jesus tells us of how to access the good life – the door to a good life is called meekness and meekness is defined as having strength under control – in other words, meekness is not the absence of power or strength but it is the presence of power that is expressed in a controlled manner.
- A meek person:
 - Quietly submits to God – easy to be led by God
 - Gentle in dealing with men – is not easily provoked
 - Contents with a matter without being contentious
 - Easily forgives
- Doors readily open for the meek, favour pursues the meek and the meek are always remembered for the good.

4. Crave for upright living

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness! For they shall be filled.

- There is plenty of things to be hungry for in this world. People are hungry for a name, for fame, for a sit among the great.
- Jesus teaches us another dimension of blessedness – blessed is the men that craves for an upright life.
- Can you imagine, living your life with an obsession for right living. In other words, before and after every action, you ask yourself weather what you did was the right thing in the eyes of God.
- The ability to walk in righteousness is an impossible fit without Jesus – a person that is hungry and thirsty for that type of life will pursue after Jesus.

KINGDOM NORMS AND VALUES Prt 3

- Hunger and thirst can be satisfied but only temporary – after a while one is hungry again. This is the same with being hungry for righteousness. You will need to have a constant interest in Christ and in His provision.
- A person that craves for upright living, has a constant interest in Jesus and His ways.
- A person who is craving for meat, will only settle after he has eaten meat – a person who is craving righteousness, will only settle until he has received the righteousness.
- Jesus says, the hungry will be satisfied – when you seek Jesus, Jesus promises to avail Himself to you.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.