

SERVANTHOOD – The Portrait of a Servant

1. Summary of Last Lesson
 - A. **Those who are genuinely humble** before God, who turn to Him in absolute dependence, will be assured of a place in His Kingdom.
 - B. **Those who show compassion** on behalf of the needy and hurting will receive in return much comfort in their own lives.
 - C. **Those who are gentle** – strong within yet controlled without, who bring a soothing graciousness...will win out.
 - D. **Those who have a passionate appetite for righteousness**, both heavenly and earthly...will receive from the Lord an unusual measure of personal contentment and satisfaction.
2. **Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. – Matthew 5:7**
 - A. The word for merciful means more than just sympathy or compassion.
 1. The word indicates a “personal and deliberate identification” with the pain and problems of others until we see things as they see them and feel things as they are feeling them. (Compassion = the pain of love)
 2. Those special servants of God who extend mercy to the miserable often do so with much encouragement because they can identify with the suffering.
 - a. Instead of watching at a distance or keeping the needy at arm’s length, they get involved and offer assistance that can alleviate some of the pain.
 - B. **James 2:15 – 16** *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*
1 John 3:17 *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*
 - **True servants are merciful.** They care. They get involved. They get dirty if necessary. They offer more than just words. (...barefoot boy through the mud w/glass - clean hands/dirty foot – all part of One Body! TFT)
 - C. What do they get in return? MERCY! And not just from God, but also from men. (...If ever in position to judge...find as much on the side of mercy as possible... HS/ALC)
3. **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. - Matthew 5:8**
 - A. This Beatitude, like the “poor in spirit”, deals with the inner man.
 1. It doesn’t refer simply to doing the right thing, but doing the right thing for the right reason. (MOTIVE)
 2. Doing things without hypocrisy, falseness or pretense.
 - B. **“Pure” means clean, uncontaminated, without corruption or guile.**
 1. God despises the contamination of the heart evidenced by hypocrisy, especially in those who claim to serve him.
 2. Evangelist Carlton Clark shared this quote recently, "The SECRET to living holy, is to live holy in secret".

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3. The Oldtimers used to say, "Who you are in the dark, is who you really are". IF you live clean and right THEN, it will manifest in the open!
- C. **The promise to the "pure in heart"? They will see God!**
 1. God will reveal Himself to them and they will be able to see Him and receive it, because there is nothing there to distort or contaminate the revelation.
4. *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.* - **Matthew 5:9**
 - A. This is the only time in the New Testament where the word "peacemakers" appears.
 1. First of all, being a peacemaker does not mean:
 - a. Avoiding all conflict or confrontation
 - b. Laid back, easy-going and relaxed
 - c. A "peace at any price" philosophy
 - d. Passive and compromising when surrounded by those who would disagree
 - B. A peacemaker is one who:
 1. First, is at peace with himself
 - a. Not agitated and filled with inner turmoil
 - b. Not abrasive
 2. Second, he works hard to settle quarrels ...not start them
 - a. He is accepting and patient
 - b. He does not find pleasure in being negative.
 - c. **Ephesians 4:3** – *Peacemakers are those who are... Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
 - C. What do peacemakers do?
 1. **They build up.**

Proverbs 14:1 *Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*
 2. **They watch their tongues...their goal is to heal and not hurt.**

Proverbs 15:1 *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. And...*

Proverbs 16:24 *Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.*
 3. **They are slow to anger.**

Proverbs 15:18 *A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. and*

Proverbs 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. **Contrasted with...***

Proverbs 25:28 *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*
 4. **They are humble and trusting.**

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Proverbs 28:25 *He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.*

D. What is the promise to peacemakers? **They shall be called sons of God.**

1. Few things are more God-like than peace. When we promote it, pursue it, model it, we are directly connected with God and His character.

5. **Matthew 5:10** *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

A. Those who genuinely desire to serve others soon find that being mistreated for doing what is right is not the exception, it is the rule.

1. Jesus knew this. Note, He did not say “if” men revile you; He said “when” they revile you.

2. He promises great reward for patience and maturity in enduring the persecution.

B. There are times when the only way to get through persecution without becoming bitter is by looking at the promised reward.

1. Jesus even said we are to “rejoice and be glad” as we think of the great rewards promised to those who endure.

6. A last look at the portrait.

A. In this portrait of a servant painted by Jesus we find His promises to be assuring and His reminders of the rewards of overcoming to be strengthening and encouraging (“blessed are...”)

B. The question is, “Can such a person as this really influence a stubborn, competitive, and strong-willed world?” Is it possible for servants to really make an impact?

NEXT LESSON: The Influence of a Servant