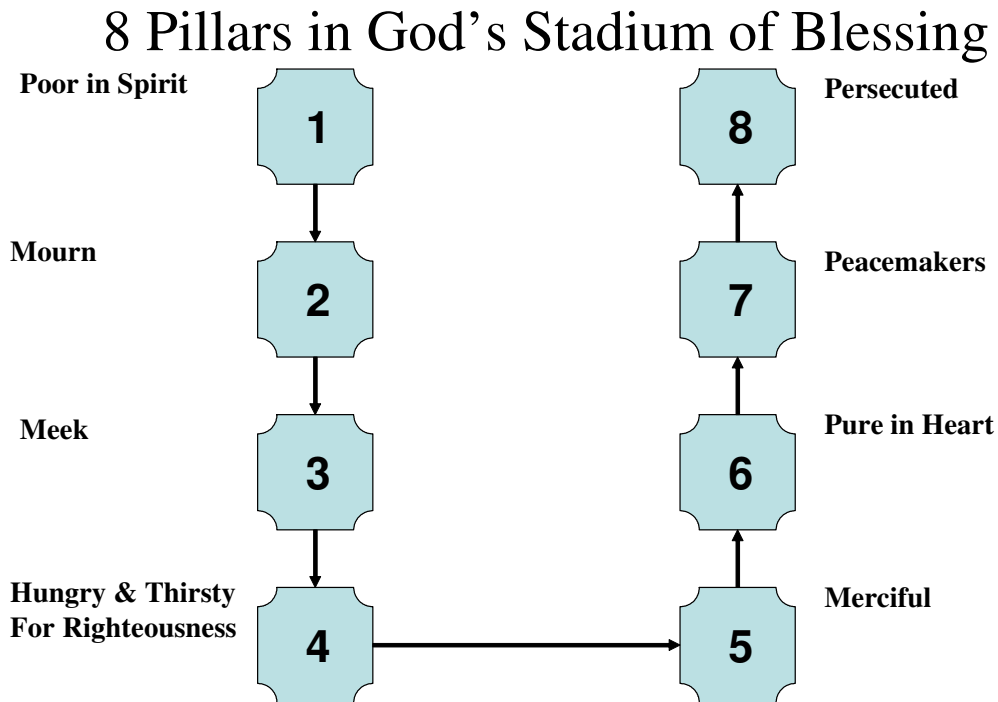


A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

The Beatitudes



The Beatitudes force us to confront our hearts, which are evil. As “sinaholics” we have to reach the bottom for a true search after God.

The Gospel is essentially offensive.

“Antarctica is a mirror. It throws back an image of yourself that you might not want to see. If you spend the winter there, it’s quite a dark mirror. You tend to dwell on your thoughts.

‘No man remains quite what he was when he recognizes himself,’ wrote Thomas Mann.

It turned out that a lot of things I believed I was – a cheerful guy, a boon companion, a natural-born leader – I actually wasn’t. My psychological crutches became apparent. There are no strangers like married strangers, and I found myself around our big plywood table thinking, *who is this person next to me?*”

P 95 Robert Swan, Antarctica 2041, Broadway Books, 2009

Matthew 5 : 4 – The Supreme Bliss of THE Broken Hearted

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1 -3; Luke 7:36 – 50; Revelation 3:14-22

The King decrees some astonishing things to his disciples:

In coming to God I am never anything but a pauper
 (I must throw all my sins on the funeral pyre,
 in addition, I must throw all my good deeds on the funeral pyre)

Humanly speaking, these sayings are lunacy

Spiritually speaking, they are the source of absolute bliss

How are we to react to the truth that we are paupers?

DISCIPLES MOURN THEIR POVERTY:

The hard nosed realist comes to terms with his sin

The hypochondriac is paralysed by it

The disciple mourns with intensity – is broken hearted:

The power of sin

The glory of the gospel

Sin anaesthetizes and has terrifying consequences:

The individual is not realizing his full potential

Others are wounded deeply by our sin

Our relationship with God is hindered by our sin

We break His heart when we sin

HOW ARE THE BROKEN-HEARTED BLESSED?

They will be comforted - come-fort-ed

Any short cut cuts short your enjoyment of God

AT THE END OF YOUR TETHER YOU WILL FIND GOD

The law brings us to the end of our tether

Grace is beyond the end of the tether!

CONCLUSIONS

They, and only they, will be comforted

Do not be afraid to bring the nasty truth about your heart to the light.

Isaiah 61 : 1-3

God bathes you to cleanse, and crowns you. (King)

God anoints you with the oil of gladness.

God cloaks you with the garment of praise.

REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: Isaiah 61:1-11

Why was Christ anointed? Define the purpose in vv 1b – 3a. The result of that ministry is graphically and practically stated in v 3b,c,d and e. Spend time praising the Lord for each aspect.

TUESDAY: Luke 7:36 - 50

An alabaster jar of ointment would have been a very sentimental and very costly (a full year's salary!) gift. Love does not count the cost but in contrast is lavish in expression. How you be lavish in your love today?

WEDNESDAY: Luke 8 : 26 - 39

A helpless, hopeless man is delivered. If we had a true estimate of sin, we would understand our helplessness and hopelessness. V 38 is a natural response, but you are required to as instructed in v 39!

THURSDAY: Luke 8 : 40 - 56

Being broken hearted means understanding your impotence. Two instances of impotence occur here. Yesterday the man was told to tell everyone (8:39). Then why v 56 today? Your impotence must drive you to Christ.

FRIDAY: Luke 4 : 1 - 14

The broken hearted do not push to be in the place of honour. The spiritual principle in v 11 should be memorized. This will make you aware of the necessity of Christ's teaching in vv 12 – 14. How can you apply this to your life?

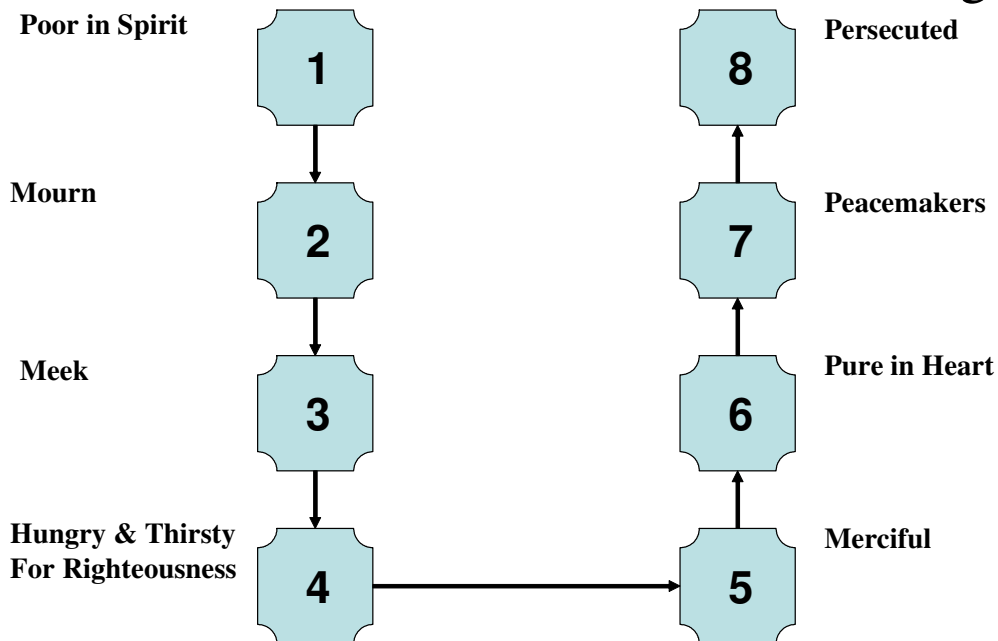
SATURDAY: James 4 : 1 - 10

Vv 1 – 5 are the opposite of broken hearted. Examine yourself thoroughly to see if any of these things are in your heart. Ask God to examine you, consult with trusted friends to check your blind spots. Vv 7 – 10 tell you what to do if you discover any of these things in your heart.

A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW KINGDOM

The Beatitudes

8 Pillars in God's Stadium of Blessing



Matthew 5 : 5 – The Supreme Bliss of the Meek

Scriptures: Psalm 37 : 1 – 20; Philippians 2 : 5 - 11

These are “be-attitudes” rather than “do-attitudes

The only reaction to God's Holiness is poverty

The exceeding sinfulness of sin causes us to mourn

The poverty and mourning are put on display

WHAT MEEKNESS IS NOT

It is spiritual, not natural

It is not the love of ease

It describes every disciple

WHAT MEEKNESS IS

A wild animal domesticated

Submission to God's wisdom in His will

Flexibility to God's word

Acceptance of the true you

THE INHERITANCE OF THE MEEK

The conqueror of the earth

The enjoyment of all things

At peace concerning the future

He inherits "the Land" that is, the Promised Land

CONCLUSION

Here is the secret of contentment

It is only possible in Christ

REFLECTIONS

MONDAY: Psalm 37 : 1 - 20

Evil men are contrasted with the meek (v 1 and v 11) List the approach that this Psalm teaches the meek to have toward life. Pray and ask for the Lord's assistance in implementing such a life style.

TUESDAY: Psalm 37 : 21 - 40

The contrast between the meek and the evil continues in this passage. Mediate on v 23f, v 31 and v 34.

WEDNESDAY: Philippians 2 : 1 - 18

True meekness is seen in Christ. The foundation is in v 1. The action is in vv 2 – 4. It all flows from the attitude in v5. If you cling to your rights you will lose everything. Work this out as instructed in v 12.

THURSDAY: Isaiah 29 : 13 - 21

The meek in v 19 are contrasted with the merely religious in v 13. This scripture is telling the meek to persevere. What promises encourage them? Claim them for yourself and for Greentree.

FRIDAY: Colossians 3 : 1 - 17

Because you are chosen, you are to clothe yourself with demeanour of Christ. – V 12. And that means you will behave as explained in vv 13 – 14. The secret of meekness is found in v 16. Ponder it well.

SATURDAY: Psalm 25 : 1 - 22

The meek appear in v 9. Vv 4 – 7 show us the sort of prayer these people have in their hearts. V 14 is an astonishing promise and ought to make you really hungry to be meek.