

## Jan. 30, 2011 “Is He Showing Through” Matthew 5

Many years ago, Art Linkletter had a show called “Kids Say The Darndest Things.” For instance, kids ask questions about God such as; “Did Eve have a belly button? “If God made spiders, why do people squish them?” “Will there be a McDonald’s in heaven?”

On a Sunday drive coming home from Church, a little girl asked her mother, “Mommy, can I ask you a question about what the Pastor said?” “Sure, what is it?” mom asked. “Pastor said that God is bigger than we are. That He’s so big that He could hold the world in His hand.” She wondered. “Yes, that’s true, honey.” Mom replied. “He said that when we believe in Jesus as our Savior, God comes and lives inside of us.” Mom again told her she was right. The little one then asked, “If God is bigger than us and He lives inside of us, wouldn’t He show through?”

The beatitudes found in Matthew 5 are about God showing through in our lives. The word beatitude has to do with a blessing, happiness, bliss, and the peace that God gives us that shows through. For instance, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.” To know that we are poor in spirit, weak in faith, helpless before God, needing to trust in Jesus leads us in two directions. First, we realize that true happiness does not come from the things in this life, and second, we become attached to Jesus through faith and find the real hope and peace we need. Being poor in spirit tells us that the stuff of this life means little and that God means everything.

What makes that so difficult is that the world around us focuses on “How great I am, how great I am.” What does it take for you to become an American Idol? What does it take for you to Dance With the Stars? What does it take for you to be a Survivor? Our sinful nature revolves around me. Like the word **EGO**, we simply **E**dge **G**od **O**ut of our lives and focus on what we want. The world’s goodies are fun for a while, but never offer lasting joy, peace, and hope. If they were enough, why do we need more and bigger things? Why are we not happy with what we have, and why does our neighbor have the greener lawn?

Being “poor in spirit” lets God show through as we trust Jesus as Lord and Savior Who died and rose for us, “blessed are the merciful” lets God show through as we deal with others. In Aramaic, the word for “merciful” means “to get under someone’s skin.” In other words, merciful is to wear another’s skin, see things from their perspective, and wear their shoes. Kind of like the famous preacher who was giving a seminar and noticed that the guy in the front row kept falling asleep. I know for a fact, just looking around here today, that people falling asleep really bothers a speaker. The preacher kept thinking all kinds of bad things about the guy. During the lunch break, a lady came up and apologized for her husband’s drowsiness. “You see,” she said, “My husband’s taking chemotherapy and with the meds he takes, he becomes very sleepy. He told me he wanted to be here because he didn’t know how much longer he could gather together with God’s people.” Now the preacher understood; he felt rotten for his thoughts, but now he could get under the man’s skin. He found mercy that could show through.

Because God is Good...All The Time, He wants us to have a child-like faith as He asks us the question, “If you truly know and trust Me as your Creator and Lord, why don’t I show through in your life?” amen...pastor matthews