



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Blog Talk Radio and 9.350 Frequency Live Internet Audio Programming

WWCR on Transmitter 2, Saturday Midnight Frequency 4.840

Volume: 17 Issue 08

THE WAY UP IS DOWN

2017 August

Today we want to fundamentally take our Scripture text from **Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** In this newsletter we will continue with many of the Beatitudes that Christ spoke of. Of all the virtues Christ commanded and admonished in the Beatitudes, it is significant that the first is humility, being "*poor in spirit*": therefore humility is truly a virtue. Without a doubt, each and every one of us could use more humility if we will be honest with ourselves. This is how Jesus began to address those listening to Him while preaching this Sermon on the Mount. Jesus went on to say in the very next verse **Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."** The truth of the matter is, you cannot mourn without appreciating how insufficient you are to handle life in your own strength. That, my friend, is the embodiment and personification of humility. We cannot be meek until we witness the need for gentleness within ourselves. Understanding that need is a sign of humility. Meekness by no means is a sign of weakness. We are told in **Numbers 12:3, "(Now the man Moses was very meek, of all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)"** What Jehovah declared about Moses is that he was very patient above everything else. In other words Moses was able to endure through submission what might be evaded because of his meekness. Many times we could have avoided a circumstance or a situation but we failed to embrace meekness and submission. I find it very amazing in how that many Christians fail to live by the simplicity of the gospel. You cannot hunger and thirst for righteousness if you think of yourself as already being

righteous. Anytime a Christian truly longs to fill their spiritual appetite that demands humility. In a parable that Luke recorded, a humble tax collector prayed a very humble prayer. We find that prayer in **Luke 18:9-13, "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one of Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalted himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."** The publican went away justified, unlike the proud Pharisee who boasted of his self-righteousness. I have never witnessed so much self-righteousness in so-called Christian media as I have today. We are warned according to the word of God in **1st Timothy 5:19-21, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."** Regretfully, today we are witnessing many untold attacks against ministries and individuals without legitimate witnesses. A good witness is a Christian

witness and not a false accuser. This disciplinary action is even a draw over from the Old Testament because even in the Old Testament Jehovah understood one man's accusation should not be enough to destroy another man's ministry or the reputation of a single individual: reading from **Deuteronomy 19:15-17, "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. If the false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the Lord, before the priest and the judges, which shall be in those days."** Regretfully, many have become judge, jury, and executioner. While preaching the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained the values of the kingdom. Money, prayer, relationships, possessions, information, and power were just a few of the categories He defined from God's perspective. He showed that following Him will involve radical change for all of us. It may simply mean undoing the way we've always done things before and rethinking traditional sources of wisdom from our parents and culture. To become like Jesus involves a tough-minded review of our values, and a thorough examination of our personal behavior. Jesus then admonishes us in the Beatitudes to be merciful and one cannot be merciful without recognizing their own need for mercy. Jesus made it very clear concerning the depth and breadth of one's love toward his Savior found in **Luke 7:47, "Wherefore I say**

unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." I often find it so true that those who once lived in the depths of wickedness and served the vilest of sin have the greatest forgiveness toward others but possess little tolerance for religious bigots. Jesus fought the religious bigots in His day and called them vipers, hypocrites, and He even called Herod a fox. However, He possessed the greatest love and forgiveness to the most wretched souls who admitted their sin and guilt. To confess your sins and ask God and others for forgiveness certainly takes humility. Furthermore; one cannot be pure in heart if they are filled with ego and pride. God has promised to exalt the humble, but resist the proud. Reading here in **James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."** And then the apostle follows up here in **James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."** And then we find the words of the apostle Peter in **1st Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."** It appears humility is a prerequisite when it comes to the will of God. One cannot be a peacemaker if they are constantly declaring and exploiting their self-righteousness. To admit you're wrong and fallible takes humility. Peace will result when both warring parties move toward one another. What I find horribly sad is when those who seek to live a quiet and peaceable life find themselves continually hit with all-out assaults against them for no apparent reason. Those who do such things are slanderous and injurious. The apostle Paul sought Jehovah to deliver him from men of that nature found here in **2nd Thessalonians 3:2, "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."** I have witnessed men who admitted they were not reasonable

men, yet they continue to stoke slander and disinformation. When the apostle Paul said that for all men have not faith he's not talking about faith to move a mountain, or faith for healing, or faith for deliverance; he was talking about redeeming or saving faith. Those who commit these acts of hostilities do not have saving faith operating in their lives! In closing you must identify with Jesus Christ no matter what the reactions of others may be. Humility demands a certain death to yourself and renunciation of your own rights. Without a doubt standing up under persecution demands Christ-like humility. Humility truly comes from within and not from without. Christ is not in the humbling business because he admonishes us to humble ourselves. When one willingly humbles themselves they are allowing the power of Christ to rest upon them so in the end he may exalt them before their peers that seek to harm them. This is where it takes persistence and discipline in seeking to do the right thing no matter what may be troubling you. This is why prayer, coupled with time in the Lord's presence will help us to make godly and very prudent decisions. You cannot make a very clear and discerning decision in the midst of chaos and contention. Notice what Jesus did before he went to the cross; he went to the garden of Gethsemane and spent much time laboring in prayer that he might be able to withstand the confusion, chaos, and contention that would explode exponentially. When you look at Peter's denial, Judas returning the 30 pieces of silver, then committing suicide, the other disciples being scattered abroad like sheep, and then Christ being brutally wounded, marred, and mutilated even before the cross He knew by the Holy Ghost He needed a time of consecration and of isolationism before Calvary. What do you need to do in this hour to help you in overcoming your obstacles and opposition that you are presently facing? Never underestimate the power of Satan in provoking you to anger and driving you

to do something that you could ultimately have untold regret for. We are admonished in **Galatians 5:26, "Let us not be desirous of the vain glory, provoking one another, in envying one another."** There are many who, like their father the devil, desire to injure us by provoking us because they are envious of us. We know Satan has a desire to harm your life from the Word of Christ found here in **Luke 22:31, "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."** In the Greek the word *desired* means that Satan exceedingly demanded that Christ give him Peter's soul. Praise God, instead of Christ allowing Satan to have Peter's soul Jesus told Peter, **"I have prayed for thee that by faith fail not."** Thank God for the intercessory power of Christ as He intercedes for His redeemed each time we petition the Father. The apostle Paul declared in **Hebrews 7:25, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God (the Father) by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."** I want to encourage you to constantly petition the Father in the name of Jesus Christ and thereby have your prayers answered. We thank each of you so very much for your continued love and support for the ministry here. We are anticipating a great move of God like we have never witnessed in our lifetime.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford

P.S. Please visit Steve Quayle's website for the September 15th – 17th, meeting in Branson Mo. I will be ministering Sunday morning and serving communion. We would really love to see you there!