

Monday, 11 April 2016

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

An important question that should concern me is how am I called to live my life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now? Ancillary questions are: How do I encourage and lead those whom the Lord has put into my care to live Kingdom oriented lives? How do I recognize others with the same objective?

A dear brother in the Lord has suggested that the answers to these questions are laid out in Matthew 5 -7, otherwise known as the Sermon on the Mount.

Join me, please, as I attempt to dig out an understanding of the answers to these questions. They are important questions for the answers define how we seek to live when we believe, trust, commit, obey the LORD, God the Almighty.

Tuesday, 12 April 2016

Matthew 5:1-2

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

It is interesting that Matthew's report of the public ministry of Jesus up to this point is very terse, essentially covered in three verses, Matthew 4:23-25. Obviously effective for great crowds followed Him from a fairly wide region. But now He sits and begins to teach.

The take away lesson for me is that I am called, not just to the good works God has ordained for me, (Eph. 2:10) but I must have the beautiful feet of one who carries the good news (Rom. 14-15).

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

Matthew 5:3-12

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be

satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Results not goals. I cannot decide that I am going to work at being poor in spirit today the way I decided which shirt I was going to take out of my closet this morning. These are the hallmarks of one who has entered fully into living out the Kingdom of God in the here and now. Another observation comes to mind; that this is the descriptive of one who is living in the righteousness, peace and joy of the Kingdom. (Rom. 14:17)

Two questions come to mind 1) What does it mean to be poor in spirit for example? 2) Does the Sermon on the Mount give me any guidance in the process of becoming one who lives my daily life in the Kingdom? I think that the passage quoted above will lead me to the answers to the 1st question while the balance of the Sermon leads to answers to the 2nd.

Thursday, 14 April 2016

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Filled with joy are those who recognize their destitute and fallen state. So, I need to acknowledge before the LORD, God the Almighty that I am a sin driven individual; that there is no good in me, I have nothing of myself to commend myself to Him. Praise You LORD that Your grace opens the Kingdom of Heaven to me.

Friday, 15 April 2016

Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Filled with joy are those who mourn their fallen state. Coming before the LORD, God the Almighty, admitting that

my sin driven life is abhorrent to Him and grieves me. My sin is a stench in my nostrils. Praise You, LORD, God the Almighty for that gift of the Comforter to heal my sorrow.

Saturday, 16 April 2016

Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Filled with peace are those who have submitted to the Lord, God the Almighty. It is the transformation, led by the Holy Spirit, that brings true peace and joy to the one who submits to the Lordship of Christ. It is that spirit of submission to the will of the LORD, that so powerfully to the world.

Lord's Day, 17 April 2016

Psalm 119:126

It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken.

Lord, lead me as Your point man to carry the news of brokenness, salvation and Kingdom living in to a world of woe. The Good News of transformation, of a new way of living, a life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Act through me, Lord, through me.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 11-17, 2016

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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The Fellowship of Ailbe, voices@ailbe.org
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.