

Day 15
Dig Deep

Matthew 5:6 (NIV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We are in this incredible campaign, to BE... or NOT... We looked at recognizing our poverty, mourning over our lost condition, so that we may receive our Heavenly Father's comfort. That leads us to the way of the cross: meekness and humility. We are learning to operate God's way. Jesus' way of inheriting the earth, the greatest contradictory statement to our culture, and those listening to Jesus is: "Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth." How many of you have realized by now that the Beatitudes are more than just a nice way of getting blessed? It is where the rubber meets the road. We must decide to either live in the shallow superficial of what the world calls blessed or go all in, dig deep into what Jesus calls the blessed life. How deep are you willing to dig?

The Beatitudes are building blocks for a life that God calls "blessed." When it comes to the "blessed life", you are either going to capitulate to the culture of today, or you are going to pursue being blessed God's way. You can call yourself "blessed", others could call you "blessed", but the only One who knows what a truly blessed life looks like is Jesus. Don't allow yourself to be sucked into a worldly definition of a blessed life. Follow the blueprint that Jesus laid out for us; follow His instructions. His Words are transformational; they produce change, the true heart change we all so desperately need.

Jesus, the Master communicator, starts the longest recorded sermon with the crucial building blocks for a God-called blessed life. **If you miss this, you won't be able to get the rest right.** It's like watching a movie but walking into the theatre (anybody remember those days) halfway in. You are going to be confused, and it is not going to be making any sense. So we have to pay attention to the detail and comprehend the intention. Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," meaning you start with nothing. Before you start, you are already in a hole. You mourn over that poverty and that is digging the foundation. Then your Father hands you the foundation stones; humility and meekness. Once you are willing to accept the way of the cross, the way of humility, then it stirs in you an appetite; it creates a hunger within you, a hunger for righteousness that only God can satisfy.

Jesus says, ***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."*** Hunger and thirst is the cement that we build with. Why do I say that? Because, in order to finish building the way Jesus taught us to build, we have to stay hungry and thirsty. If you think that the building analogy is taking it a bit far, you need to remember it is Jesus' analogy not mine. Listen to how Jesus finished His sermon on the Mount: ***"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."*** (Matthew 7:24-27 NLT)

When we come to Jesus, the Architect and Master Builder, we get His plan and reject the world's plan. We also reject any other plan, even if it is cloaked with religious jargon, words and ways. We do not build with materials that will not last. We build on that which will last not just in this life, but in that which is to come. Please understand this about the Beatitudes, they work together not apart. They must be woven into the fabric of our lives. If we are serious about living our lives for the glory of God, then we will be serious about what Jesus teaches us about living life His way. These are not qualities we use once

in a while; they are character traits. They become part of who we are and how we operate. We don't disregard meekness to hunger and thirst for righteousness. A continual spirit of meekness enables us to have an appetite for the righteousness that God desires. We are not humble some of the time. We live a life of humility and dependence.

This kind of dependence helps us to evaluate what our hearts are truly longing for. What are you hungry for? What appetites do you have in your life? Are you thirsting after God's righteousness, or are you longing for food that cannot and will not satisfy you? Jesus, the Master builder, is handing you all the tools you need so that you can end up with a Blessed Life. How deep are you willing to dig? Jesus, the Architect of a blessed life, is handing you the blueprint, are you willing to follow it? Paul writes and says, *"Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. **But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.**" (1 Corinthians 3:10-11 NLT)* We cannot build on any other foundation than Jesus! Be careful what materials you use to build what God wants. Using what Jesus wants never leads to regret. Because the way we build will be tested. Will the way you are building today hold up under the scrutiny of the Master builder?

Paul further admonishes us and says, *"Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. **13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done.** The fire will show if a person's work has any value. **14 If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss.** The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15 NLT)*

Be aware that the world's plan might provide instant gratification and an appearance of a blessed life, but it is nothing but a smoke screen. Follow that plan and you end up deceiving yourself. Follow Jesus' plan laid out in the Beatitudes; it might seem foolish, but it is the smartest thing you can do! ***"Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. (1 Corinthians 3:18 NLT)***

Are you willing to become a fool in the eyes of the world so that you can be truly wise? God's plan might look foolish, but only His plan leads to an everlasting blessed life! I plead with you: Build God's way. You will never regret it. Take the cement, take the trowel and build on the right foundation...

Reflection and Prayer:

- **Pray this Prayer:** Father, I thank You that You have hidden this treasure from the earth's foundation and revealed it to us through Jesus. You have chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. Lord, I do not want to be wise in the eyes of the world. I want to be wise in Your eyes. Father, I am willing to look foolish to the point that others may think I am a fool to pursue Your way of building a blessed life. Help me to dig deeper. Help me to no longer play around the shallow end of what it means to follow You. I want to dig deeper. I want to build on Jesus, my Chief Cornerstone. Jesus, You are my Architect and I will follow Your plan. Thank You that You are also my Master Builder. You not only give me Your plan, but You help me to build Your way. Thank You that I can hunger and thirst for Your righteousness; that I can seek after what pleases You. May I always hunger and thirst after You. As I start this week, teach me to build, show me what materials to use. I also pray that You would help my fellow builders, my brothers and sisters, in You, to build on the

right foundation. When we stand before You one day, let that not be a day of regret but a day of rejoicing, because we build Your way. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen!

- Read and meditate on *1 Corinthians 3:10-18* - Write down what the Holy Spirit reveals to you.