

Day 3 We Need Him

Matthew 5:3(Message) *This is what he said: ³"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule."*

The end of your rope means the beginning of God's Hand. This poverty of spirit that Jesus talks about produces for us a benefit beyond our wildest dreams. We, according to Jesus, recognize our poverty and then receive His kingdom! What an incredible trade-off worth making. Why would any of us not take that kind of offer? Why would we hold back? Why would we pretend to be rich, when we are poor? Why would we pursue a worldly idea of being blessed, instead of embracing God's terms? The culprit is the same as it was in the beginning, sin.

The problem with sin is that no one wants to admit that they are sinful. Sin promises a lot but, in the end, produces very little. Sin is deceptively attractive and none of us have to work hard at it, because sin comes naturally to all of us. Here's the thing that we must remember about sin, sin cost Jesus His life. Grace is free for us, but very costly for Christ! Therefore, we must totally rely on Christ Jesus to set us free, not only from the effects of sin, but also the very allure of it. Poverty of spirit admits our need for God and sees Him as the only way out of our struggle with sin. If you placate sin, if you justify sin, if you deny sin, then you do not recognize the depth of your poverty yet. If you think that you can overcome sin by sheer willpower you are sadly mistaken. No amount of good intentions or self-induced pressure can help me overcome sin. I need God! Listen to what Paul writes to the church in Rome:

Romans 7:17-20 (Message) *But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.*

Paul, who was a Pharisee of Pharisees, who obeyed the law even as a child and persecuted Christ followers in his zeal for God, calls himself a miserable person. Does that sound familiar? It should.

"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (Romans 7:24 NLT) Contrast that with the Pharisees when they are being confronted by Jesus, in John chapter 8.

"Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?" 34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. 35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free." John 8:31-36 (NLT)

They claim that they have never been slaves to anyone, yet Jesus says that they are slaves of sin and that true freedom can only be found in the Son. True freedom can only come when we acknowledge our bondage to sin, and our need to be set free. Regardless of the spiritual heritage we claim, freedom is only found in Jesus and no other! That's why Paul's answer to his own cry about who will deliver him is this; **25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Where in your life are you struggling with sin? Have you been honest with God about it? Are you justifying it by saying; “well everybody does it, it’s no big deal, I can handle it, God understands that I’m only human...”? All these statements lead to continual defeat. So, what do we do, we throw our hands up and surrender to a life that is void of the blessedness that Jesus promises? Absolutely not! We turn to Him. We confess our complete dependence on Him. We turn everything over to God. We do not leave a single thing in the dark, we bring all of it to the light. We don’t hold back a single wrong or transgression. We don’t categorize big sins and little sins, and by doing so, coddle what needs to be confessed. We turn all of it over to our Father and trust Him to make us what we cannot make ourselves, free!

Acts 20:32 (Message) *“Now I’m turning **you over to God**, our marvelous **God** whose gracious **Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends.**”*

His Word making us into what He wants us to be, what a promise. But we must be willing to turn it all over to Him. Our hearts cry for freedom and that freedom is only found in the mercy of our Father.

Psalm 103:13-14 (NLT) *The Lord is like a father to his children, **tender and compassionate** to those who fear him. ¹⁴**For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.***

Getting to the end of your rope is the best thing that can happen to you. Because, it makes you realize that self-effort does not produce the righteousness of God. Only by turning to him, you will find that when God is all you have, God is all you need!

Reflection and Prayer:

- **Thank the Lord for His power that enables you to walk in freedom.**
- **Ask the Father to reveal anything in your life that does not bring glory to His Name.**
- **Pray and ask for forgiveness and receive your Heavenly Father’s tender compassion.**
- **Spend some time re-reading the verses that we covered today, and allow the Holy Spirit to empower you through His Word.**