

Biblical Stories of Faith - Week 1

The Pathway to Victory Matt 5:3-10

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- **Victory** seems to escape many believers as we struggle in life.
- Victory is when it's said of you what is **written** about you.
- It's not about filling the church with more people trying to advance the kingdom, it's getting people **filled** with God.
- We tell a new believer of saving faith to get into heaven, but fail to teach a **faith** that takes us through life.
- Instead of thirsting for God and seeking Him **desperately**, at times we seem to wander from God.
- We just don't have time for **self-examination**, nor do we really desire it. "I'm ok, you're ok." Will I ever get my flesh to line up with the **holiness** I really desire within?

Revival: "That strange and sovereign work of God in which He visits His own people, restoring, reanimating and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing." Stephen Olford

Three things that must take place in the life of a believer:

1. **Acknowledge**
2. **Accept**
3. **Affirm**

So what is the principle for us to learn?

- Every day we are confronted with **choices**. So Matthew chapter 5 is more about **being** than doing.
- Self-examination leads to **repentance** which leads to right relationship with God and others.

I. The **Pathway** to Victory

- It's being able to see our **spiritually** hopeless situation, our poverty-driven life, apart from Jesus being Lord.
- The way to victory is the **emptying** of our old self.
- The world says happiness comes from **self-sufficiency** when really it is truly **insufficient**. The world would say "happy are the self-willed" but God says miserable are the self-willed.
- The pathway comes with the acceptance of allowing God to have **divine** control.

II. The **Passageway** to Victory

- The passageway for us has to be a desire to be **free** from all sin and the strongholds that hold us hostage.
- Today many believers hunger and thirst for **happiness** or prosperity more than for righteousness.
- Being controlled by the Holy Spirit has got to be the **key** to the passageway to victory.

III. The **Proofs** of Victory

Proof 1: Those who have received **mercy** also are willing to give it.

Proof 2: They have a **pure** heart.

Proof 3: Their **conduct** always seeks peace.

Final thoughts:

- The verses in Matthew 5 begin with and end with "for theirs is the kingdom of God". We belong to another **kingdom**.
- WE need to open a new book allowing God his rightful place in our lives.
- Remember doing is not as important as **being**.