

**I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: THE DNA OF GOD’S KINGDOM**

- A. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is the “DNA of God’s Kingdom.” We measure our ministry impact by how much people seek to walk out the Sermon on the Mount values. These values are to be the themes that we are to emphasize most in our ministries.
- B. If we want an amazing walk with God, we must ask for His grace to live and walk out the Sermon on the Mount. This life attracts God to you and me more than anything we could do for Him in the arena of ministry. This is true power resting on your frame.

**II. POVERTY OF SPIRIT**

- A. To be poor in spirit is to be aware that we are in great need of experiencing spiritual growth in our heart, ministry, church, and society. It means seeing our need to be helped by God in light of how much He wants to give us. Therefore, being aware of our spiritual deficiency and neediness. To be “happy” means to have a vibrant spirit.

*Mt 5:3-4 Blessed are the poor in spirit [those who see their need], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn [spiritually], for they shall be comforted.*

*Rev 3:17-21... <sup>17</sup>Because you say, “I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing “and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked...<sup>19</sup>As many as I love, I rebuke...be zealous and repent...<sup>21</sup>To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne*

- B. Poor in spirit means that we see our spiritual lack in our obedience and love. We are aware of the need for our love to be developed. “Poverty of spirit” is how we see ourselves; “mourning” is how we feel about what we see.

**III. JESUS’ PROMISE TO BE FULL OF LIGHT AND A WARNING ABOUT DARKNESS**

*Mt 6:22-23 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body (person) will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is bad, your whole body (person) will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*Eph 1:17-19 The eyes of the heart be opened...*

- A. Jesus is giving the promise of light to us as we set our spiritual eyes in the right direction. If your spiritual eye is good your whole being will be full of light. He is saying it will be the opposite of fear, shame, depression, and other darkened emotions and addictions. The source of light means to set the heart with clear focus. As we do, Jesus says your whole person can be under the influence of light.

- B. In contrast, Jesus gives His disciples the sober warning if we don't grow in the light of what He has been talking about in Mt 6. He says, "If light in you becomes dark, it will be great darkness!" Why? You are not the same when God encounters your life. When a person encounters God and experiences deep things in God and then draws away from Him, it's terrible. The capacity for darkness is the same.

*Ps 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light*

#### IV. THE BENEFITS OF ASKING FOR GOD'S LIGHT

- A. Our emotions are affected, and you feel loved by God and to feel love back.

*1 Jn 2:5 Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.*

- B. God gives living understanding of the Word.

*Ps 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding...*

*2 Cor 4:6 God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God...*

- C. Being led into deep encounter with God by His light

*Ps 43:3 Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.*

- D. Feeling joy in doing God's will, we truly love what God loves.

*Ps 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart*

- E. God promises to fill anyone with light if they will give themselves fully to cultivating it

*Lk 11:36 The whole body will be full of light, as...the bright shining of a lamp*

*Is 62:1 I will not rest until her righteousness goes forth as brightness...as a lamp that burns.*

*Jn 5:35 He (John the Baptist) was the burning and shining lamp...*

#### V. JESUS GAVE 5 THINGS LEADING UP TO HIS PROMISE AND WARNING IN MT 6

- A. Serving people and giving generously (*Mt. 6:1-4*).

*Mt 6:3-4 When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that...your Father who sees in secret will reward you...openly.*

- B. Pray to engage with God through His Word instead of to please men (*Mt. 6:5-13*).

*Mt 6:5-7 You shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray...that they may be seen by men...7 When you pray, do not use vain repetitions...*

- C. Forgive and bless those in an adversarial relationship with us (*Mt. 6:14-15; 5:44*).

*Mt 6:15 If you do not forgive men...neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

*Mt 5:44 Bless those who curse you...pray for those who spitefully use you...*

- D. Fast food (*Mt. 6:17-18*).

*Mt 6:17 When you fast, anoint your head...*

## VI. NEGLECTING TO GROW IN GOD'S LIGHT WILL LEAD TO GREAT DARKNESS

- A. If we neglect to ask God for light and give ourselves to what Jesus calls us to, our whole body will be full of darkness. Because the amount of light needed to keep us "steady in God" in a previous season of life is no longer enough because our spiritual capacity and appetite increases.

- B. Jesus says the darkness that replaces light in us will be compounded.

- C. Darkness and demons increase in people who have experienced freedom but return to darkness. A person can be worse off than before deliverance if he doesn't fill himself with light.

*Mt 12:43-45 When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty...45 He goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter...and the last state of that man is worse than the first.*

*2 Peter 2:20-22 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*

- D. The only way to keep the light we have in God is to gain more light. Light must be aggressively cultivated by filling our heart with it.

*Rom 13:12 Cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.*

- E. As we grow in the Lord and receive more responsibility, we must either turn inward for light and oil or we go outward with human strength. If we do not grow in light then we end up burnt out with great vulnerability to addictions. Darkness attracts demons as light repels them.

- F. Light is a remarkable reality and gift in both the natural and spiritual realm. Therefore, God requires that we greatly value it by walking in it. It's our destiny now and in the age to come.

*Ps 104:2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment. Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.*

*Jn 1:4-5 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

*1 Jn 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

*1 Tim 6:16 Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*

*Jn 8:12 I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall...have the light of life.*

*Rev 21:23 The city had no sun...for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

*Mt 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*Rev 21:9-11 I will show you the Bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 He...showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem...11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a precious stone.*