

Gaining From Loss
Matthew 5:1 – 5
The Laurel Center
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Main Idea: We can stand firm in losing because we win in the end.

Introduction

We're going to begin the new year by looking at some of the most important tools that Christians need as we continue to follow Jesus. The Beatitudes that Jesus starts within the Sermon on the Mount are absolute essentials for us today. Without these attitudes of the heart, we cannot truly receive everything that God has for us. We must take a backseat to what God wants to do and what he wants to do it in us. The Beatitudes are postures of the spirit that we take on so that we can be blessed by God.

These are attitudes God is working in us. They are the stage that God must set before he delivers the end results. Before we receive whatever God has for us in the second part of the attitude we must have the attitude that Jesus mentions in the beginning of the Beatitudes. We can only receive these things by demonstrating what we would see as the weak character traits that Jesus uses strengths.

Matthew 5:1–3

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: **3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I. Jesus turns bankruptcy into wealth.

A We know we have nothing to offer.

- 1** Being poor in spirit is all about having attitude of humility. It is about the attitude of needing something from God rather than demanding it of him. To be poor in spirit to understand our desperation and the need for God.
- 2** This is an attitude, we must take on for ourselves. No one wants to be poor or desires to be in a state of needing something from someone. We tend to see this as a weakness. We don't like to be vulnerable.
- 3** But this vulnerability is required by Jesus, so that we can have the character and the attitude that we need to be part of his kingdom. Although we lose the ability to fend for ourselves and to be rich, we gain a place of humility in which we can be teachable to God.
- 4** Kingdom character requires us to be moldable and teachable for Jesus. Our usefulness takes them is in being bankrupt and knowing that we need

to hear from God rather than do it ourselves. This is the kind of attitude that God can use.

B Jesus gives us the kingdom of heaven.

- 1 Only when we begin to realize how much we really need God, and how much we can do things on our own, especially in the spiritual realm, we begin to rely on God rather than ourselves.
- 2 It is only when we realize how much we do not have that we can be candidates for God to give things that he wants to give to us. This of course includes being given the kingdom of heaven.
- 3 To be given the kingdom of heaven is to realize God's rule in our hearts and in our lives and to make him Lord of our lives by saying yes to every command that he gives. Receiving the kingdom of God takes our vulnerability before the Lord and grants his rule in our lives.
- 4 We must become humble and moldable before God, so that we can receive from him. We do not rely on ourselves, but rather on him and what he wants to give his children.
- 5 Only when we realize the bankruptcy of our spirit can we be open to what God wants to give us and open to his rule. This spiritual attitude requires our hearts to be humble and open before God, to receive from him.
- 6 Remember that bigger scampi choosers and that whatever God gives us is what we need for that moment in that day. We must not wobble with the giver, but must enjoy whatever gift. He sees fit to give. This also is part of the attitude of being poor in spirit.

Matthew 5:4

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

II. Jesus turns mourning into rejoicing.

A We mourn over loss.

- 1 We mourn for so many different things in life. Many of our deepest losses have driven us to tears. But it's not only loss that causes us to react in such a way.
- 2 We mourn because we are broken, have experienced a loss too great to bear, have been unjustly attacked and many other reasons. We mourn for our deepest losses.
- 3 Being able to properly process loss is essential as a Kingdom character trait. This attitude of respecting the worth of what has been lost is very important.

- 4 Only after we have properly understood the loss that we have incurred can we understand what Jesus has done for us. Only after properly placing value on the right things can we truly be effective for the kingdom of God.
- 5 Our gratitude for what we have lost. And it's worth can only be helpful in seeing the values of the kingdom of God. And the only thing that is helpful to someone who is mourning over losses for someone who truly understands to comfort them.
- 6 Just like operating from a poor spirit and knowing that we need God. And we humbly come to him, mourning our losses is part of understanding what we have gained in what we have lost, the value of the things around us and the people around us.
- 7 When we mourn out of brokenness God can really use us. He can use us to see when others are also broken. You can use us to minister to them, and comfort them in their brokenness.
- 8 Brokenness, like being poor in spirit, is the starting point for God to do something great in our lives. We come to a place where we realize our great need for God, and in that place, God can bless us with his good gifts.

B Jesus comforts us in our brokenness.

- 1 One of the greatest gifts of Christianity that Jesus brings to us is comfort. We cannot always escape the trials of this life that cause our brokenness and loss, but Jesus promises to be our comforter.
- 2 The Greek word behind the word for comfort is the word for Paraclete. This word means to come alongside of someone. It means to share in the pain and in the mourning.
- 3 This word is used of the Holy Spirit in the book of John. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter. Jesus comforts us and also sends his Holy Spirit to us to be a comforter to us as well.
- 4 Paul talks about the God of all comfort in the second book of Corinthians. God is all about comforting us in the midst of our trials. When we experience loss in brokenness Jesus is there beside us. He knows just what to say and when to say it, just what to do and when to do it.
- 5 Having his presence in the midst of our suffering and pain is the greatest gift of comfort we could ever ask for. His presence makes all the difference in reversing the pain and brokenness.
- 6 The fact that we do not go about our troubles alone is in itself a gift. We do not go through our struggles and losses alone. Jesus walks with us and provides exactly what we need when we need it.

Matthew 5:5

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

III. Jesus turns quietness into strength.

A We are quiet and weak.

- 1 Our natural inclination is to think that we are strong. When we are actually weak. Things that come up in life break us to the point that we have no recourse. We come to the end of our own rope.
- 2 Or we lie to ourselves and talk about being strong or try to do something we think is a strong reaction to those things that come against us. We think we have the resources that we need, but we don't.
- 3 We take silent people to be weak. Those who do not react to every little thing that comes by are seen as behind the times. They are seen as people who do not know how to confront the issues.

B Jesus makes us strong and wise.

Conclusion

These first three Beatitudes demonstrate on different levels. The idea of having an attitude of loss and desperation, needing God to do something in us because we know we can't do it in ourselves. These first three Beatitudes teach us to be malleable and open to God's role in our and our hearts. We can only experience the gifts God has for us. When we subject ourselves to weakness and loss. It is only then that God can take what we have to offer, humility and nothingness, and to turn it into greatness. We must first learn to be humble servants before we are considered great in the kingdom of God. The hardest part about this is maintaining that humility and sense of loss so that we do not become prideful about what God is doing in our hearts and lives.