

The Stories That Remain

Jennifer Alessio | July 23, 2023

Message Thread: Knowing Jesus shifts our priorities.

“Then Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of His disciples, and a vast multitude of people from all over Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to listen to Him and to be healed of their diseases. Even those who were troubled by unclean spirits (demons) were being healed. All the people were trying to touch Him, because [healing] power was coming from Him and healing them all.

The Beatitudes

And looking toward His disciples, He began speaking: ‘Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] are you who are poor [in spirit, those devoid of spiritual arrogance, those who regard themselves as insignificant], for the kingdom of God is yours [both now and forever]. Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness] are you who hunger now [for righteousness, actively seeking right standing with God], for you will be [completely] satisfied. Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God’s grace] are you who weep now [over your sins and repent], for you will laugh [when the burden of sin is lifted]. Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God’s goodness] are you when people hate you, and exclude you [from their fellowship], and insult you, and scorn your name as evil because of [your association with] the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for your reward in heaven is great [absolutely inexhaustible]; for their fathers used to treat the prophets in the same way. But woe (judgment is coming) to you who are rich [and place your faith in possessions while remaining spiritually impoverished], for you are [already] receiving your comfort in full [and there is nothing left to be awarded to you]. Woe to you who are well-fed (gorged, satiated) now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now [enjoying a life of self-indulgence], for you will mourn and weep [and deeply long for God]. Woe to you when all the people speak well of you and praise you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.

Love your enemies

But I say to you who hear [Me and pay attention to My word]: Love [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] your enemies, [make it a practice to] do good to those who hate you, bless and show kindness to those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever strikes you on the cheek, offer him the other one also [simply ignore insignificant insults or losses and do not bother to retaliate—maintain your

dignity]. Whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you. Whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you [only] love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend [money] to those from whom you expect to receive [it back], what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to receive back the same amount. But love [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; for your reward will be great (rich, abundant), and you will be sons of the Most High; because He Himself is kind and gracious and good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful (responsive, compassionate, tender) just as your [heavenly] Father is merciful.” Luke 6:17-36 (Amplified)

Point 1: Knowing Jesus shifts my priorities from rules to relationship.

Point 2: Knowing Jesus shifts my priorities from the values of this world to the riches of the Kingdom of God.

World’s Priorities

Power
Selfishness
Physical Appearance
Money or Success
Platform

God’s Priorities

Service (Galatians 5:13)
Humility (Proverbs 22:4)
Heart (1 Samuel 6:17/ Proverbs 31:30)
Relationship with God (Ephesians 1:4)
A Quiet Life (1 Thessalonians 4:11)

Point 3: Knowing Jesus shifts my priorities from me to others.

Challenges:

- In your Chair Time this week, ask yourself the following question: What image am I reflecting to others—God’s or the world’s?
- Read through the Bible verses listed in point 2, and ask God what priorities you need to shift so that you can more accurately reflect God’s image to the world.

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit DougBrittonBooks.com/resources.