

"God's Trophies"

Matthew 5:1-16

Road to Recovery from life's hurts, habits, hang-ups.

Everyone has them
Most people admit them
Many people try to overcome them
Few people really travel the road

If God loves me, why does he let me hurt?

He blessed me with the freedom to choose
He bestows others with the freedom to choose
He gave Adam the freedom to choose

Reviewing the road to recovery:

Key thought: It really is all about Jesus!

The hardest sell of all:

That we are blessed
Because we have a great reward
That we should rejoice and be glad
Because we are in great company

How do I experience God's blessings in hurt?

God gets my attention
God demonstrates his love
God teaches me truth
God grows me into something good

God never saves me just for me:

He saves me to make a difference
"You are the salt of the earth"
He saves me to be an example
"You are the light of the world"
He saves me to glorify Himself
"that they may see your good works and praise your father in heaven"

Principle #8: *Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.*

Are you ready to become God's trophy today?

5:1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying:

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.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute
you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of
me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets
who were before you.

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses
its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer
good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by
men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill
cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put
it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives
light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your
light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds
and praise your Father in heaven.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Eight Principles Based on the Beatitudes, By Pastor Rick Warren

1. **R**ealize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my Life is unmanageable.
"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor." (Matthew 5:3)
2. **E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
"Happy are those who mourn, for they will receive comfort." (Matthew 5:4)
3. **C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
"Happy are the meek." (Matthew 5:5)
4. **O**penly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
"Happy are the pure in heart." (Matthew 5:8)
5. **V**oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires."
(Matthew 5:6)
6. **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
"Happy are the merciful." (Matthew 5:7)
"Happy are the peacemakers." (Matthew 5:9)
7. **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer, in order to know God and His will for my life, and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.
"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires."
(Matthew 5:10)



March 29, 2009

Matthew 5:10-16

"God's Trophies"

Pastor Philip C. Rogers

Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana

Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com