

Series: MOTIVE

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Title: "Blessed Futility"

Introduction: WELCOME, BMZ! Glad you're with us TODAY for "**MOTIVE: What Drives You**"! Sermon on the Mount... JESUS has a PREFERENCE for Your MOTIVE and in THIS SERMON, He GIVES IT.

The SERMON on the MOUNT is the most MISUNDERSTOOD and ARGUED ABOUT PASSAGE from the WORDS of JESUS... People believe this is MAYBE a PIPE DREAM or a SOCIAL ACTION PIECE, but the ONLY WAY to UNDERSTAND this MESSAGE is to KNOW The PREACHER! And the ONLY WAY to KNOW the PREACHER is to be FILLED with HIS SPIRIT (*I will be with you always...*). AND the ONLY WAY to BE FILLED with HIS SPIRIT is to FIRST SURRENDER to HIM as LORD.

FOR those who have NOT SURRENDERED, the WORDS of the PREACHER bring a SENSE of FUTILITY. There is NO WAY YOU and I can DO ANY of THIS ON our OWN. THESE WORDS ONLY COME TRUE when The PREACHER LIVES INSIDE of US! UNLESS we're SAVED BY HIM and HE'S LORD in our LIVES, it does NOT MAKE SENSE.

IF Jesus is JUST a GOOD TEACHER, these WORDS are MEAN. They TEASE US because we CANNOT ATTAIN HIS STANDARD. BUT JESUS is NOT JUST a GOOD TEACHER, He is LORD and CAME to MAKE US what HE TAUGHT US to BE! Without HIS SPIRIT FILLING US ... this is just a HUGE TEASE ... NANAR, NANAR!

Here's what **The SERMON on the MOUNT IS: It's JESUS' STATEMENT of the LIFE we will LIVE when the HOLY SPIRIT is HAVING HIS WAY with US.**

The SERMON on the MOUNT is to ENCOURAGE those who ARE SURRENDERED to HIM and FILLED with HIS SPIRIT and BRING a SENSE of FUTILITY and DESPAIR and HOPELESSNESS to THOSE who DO NOT KNOW HIM. WHY? BECAUSE if we are TRULY out of HOPE in OURSELVES and what WE CAN DO, then we are WILLING to COME TO JESUS as ones BROKEN / POOR / NOTHING to OFFER and DESPARATE to RECEIVE what JESUS HAS to OFFER! SOME of you can UNDERSTAND THIS and OTHERS can NOT. BUT that is OKAY! JESUS TAUGHT THOSE who HAD BEEN with HIM for a WHILE at the SAME TIME as THOSE who had NEVER MET HIM.

Here we go ... The SERMON on the MOUNT (Jesus) ... **MATTHEW 5:1-2 = One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.** JESUS talking to His DISCIPLES as the CROWDS LISTEN IN ... LIKE HERE!

As He teaches, remember Jesus is NOT just a TEACHER. He is The SON of the LIVING GOD. He is SAVIOR of the WORLD. He is KING and LORD. And what He TEACHES is IMPOSSIBLE! It is FUTILE to ATTEMPT to LIVE THIS WAY without ... NOT JUST a TEACHER, but the LORD WITH US ALWAYS! **IT is FUTILE UNLESS we have MOTIVE ... something that DRIVES US that MAY SEEM HIDDEN and NOT OBVIOUS.**

We are going to spend the NEXT FEW WEEKS FINDING OUT what JESUS / GOD can DO, and WE CAN'T ... UNLESS we are FILLED with HIS SPIRIT (MOTIVE!). WHY have I been saying that for the MONTHS leading up to THIS SERIES?

Because, IF we are going to be “CHRISTIANS” (“LITTLE CHRISTS” ... ANTIOCH “CHRISTIANS” was a Political Label, like Caesariani / Herodiani / Neroniani. By their CONDUCT, people LABELED “CHRISTIANS” as FOLLOWERS of a KING ... In COMPETITION with CAESAR. **“Worship WHOEVER YOU LIKE, but OBEY CAESAR!”**), we MUST have JESUS SPIRIT INSIDE US! We must SURRENDER to HIM as SAVIOR (I can NOT SAVE myself) and LORD (I am YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT!) and ask HIM TO FILL US with HIM! OTHERWISE, we will NOT be IDENTIFIED as HIS.

As we CONTINUE ... At FIRST READ, these PHRASES seem like SIMPLE and BEAUTIFUL STATEMENTS from JESUS ... sometimes we READ Jesus LIKE we’ve HEARD it BEFORE, right? BUT for the “BEATITUDES” or BLESSINGS ... BLESSED (Latin) = “BEATUS” ... we MUST PAY ATTENTION to WHAT is TRULY being REVEALED. Again, BEATITUDES ... they SEEM like BEAUTIFUL BLESSINGS, but JESUS is GETTING at SOMETHING. He KNOWS that our ATTITUDES REVEAL our HEARTS. He CARES GREATLY about our HEARTS... SO, WHAT will BE our ATTITUDES? Again, for FOLLOWERS of THE WAY...

JESUS pays ATTENTION to ... **Our Attitude Toward...**

NOW, LIKE those in the FIRST CENTURY in ANTIOCH, Jesus wants US to be IDENTIFIABLE by our ATTITUDES.

Our SELF:

How do I PERCEIVE MYSELF? Do I SEE MYSELF as I WANT TO, or as GOD DOES? Jesus wants our ATTITUDE about OURSELVES to REFLECT our NEED for HIM.

MATTHEW 5:3 = ³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. POOR in SPIRIT ... I am IMPOVERISHED in my CONNECTION with ALMIGHTY GOD. I have NOTHING in my HANDS to OFFER ... I’m POOR ... I GOT NOTHING ... I NEED EVERYTHING from YOU, JESUS. *“How do I inherit eternity?”* THOSE who PROCLAIM their NEED for JESUS from their HEARTS and with ALL THEY HAVE ... SURRENDER TO HIM and LIVE FOR HIM! IF we RECOGNIZE we are POOR in SPIRIT and RELY on JESUS to make us RICH in HIS WAYS, THEN the KINGDOM of HEAVEN is OURS!

Our SIN:

What is my ATTITUDE toward MY SIN / SINFULNESS? JESUS wants us to have a CLEAR and TRUE PICTURE of WHAT SEPARATES US from GOD and HOW SEVERE it IS! God does not take it lightly and neither should we!

MATTHEW 5:4 = ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Do you MOURN / GRIEVE what you’ve DONE to JESUS? Do you MOURN the SUFFERING of JESUS? Do we FULLY UNDERSTAND that our SINS (not just a mistake / no big deal / I can get forgiven / no one is looking, etc.) are the REASON JESUS had to SUFFER and DIE. Do you RESPOND in an APPROPRIATE MANNER? If you KNEW you KILLED an INNOCENT PERSON ... Would you TRULY MOURN in the DEPTHS of YOU? IF you DO, JESUS says HE will COMFORT YOU.

MATTHEW 5:5 = ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. Does this UNDERSTANDING / MOURNING of our SIN move us AWAY from our NATURAL ARROGANCE and PRIDE? Do we REALIZE our PLACE in COMPARISON to JESUS? IF we are TRULY HUMBLE from the CORE of our BEING / HEART (and Jesus knows the truth), THEN we will INHERIT ALL JESUS has for us in THIS LIFE ... John 10:10 – **“I CAME that you would have a RICH and SATISFYING LIFE.”**

MATTHEW 5:6 = ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. JUSTICE is NOT HUMAN JUSTICE. It is JUSTICE ACCORDING to JESUS / The WORD! This is NOT about JUSTICE in this TEMPORARY WORLD ... Jesus TOLD US that will NOT HAPPEN. This WORLD is BROKEN and RULED by the ENEMY. JESUS is TALKING about RIGHTEOUSNESS / in a RIGHT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with GOD. You must be PERFECT as your FATHER in HEAVEN is PERFECT ... CHRIST-LIKENESS... We will NEVER ACHIEVE PERFECTION, but do we HUNGER and THIRST FOR IT? HAS our PURSUIT of our RELATIONSHIP with CHRIST become as MUCH a NECESSITY as FOOD and WATER? IF it has, THEN we will be SATISFIED.

The LORD:

What is my ATTITUDE TOWARD JESUS / MY LORD?

MATTHEW 5:7 = ⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. “MERCY” = “NOT GETTING what WE DESERVE” ... like UNCONDITIONAL LOVE in ACTION! Jesus says, “IF” you are MERCIFUL to OTHER PEOPLE ... ALL PEOPLE ... ANY OTHER PERSON ... (**NOT giving them what YOU THINK they DESERVE**), GOD will be MERCIFUL to YOU (NOT GIVE YOU what YOU DO DESERVE!).

LISTEN, JESUS SAYS that OUR STANDARD for MERCY is HIS STANDARD for MERCY and NOTHING LESS! Let me ask ... HOW MUCH MERCY would you like GOD to SHOW YOU? Then, SHOW MERCY to OTHERS!

MATTHEW 5:8 = ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

HEARTS PURE = This is NOT about APPEARANCES. The Pharisees APPEARED PURE ... they ACTED RELIGIOUS and HOLY. JESUS wants MORE FOR US than to APPEAR PURE / CHRISTIAN / HOLY. IF you WANT to SEE GOD, THEN you MUST be PURE in HEART. It is PART of your BEING, NOT just your PERSONA. Like, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT to BEHAVE in a CHRIST-LIKE MANNER. It COMES from a CHRIST-LIKE HEART! There is NO MIXED MOTIVE. You have ONE MOTIVE, and it COMES from a HEART FOR CHRIST! PURE ... Jesus = You must be PERFECT as your FATHER in HEAVEN ... more later...

MATTHEW 5:9 = ⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. Those who WORK for PEACE / MAKE PEACE are FOUNDERS of PEACE. They do NOT COPY OTHERS. They do NOT RESPOND as The WORLD DOES. Jesus AMPLIFIES this LATER in the SERMON ... PEACEMAKERS do NOT JUDGE OTHERS / Do NOT CRITICIZE OTHERS / DO NOT make themselves BETTER than OTHERS in their OWN EYES or ANYONE ELSE'S EYES!

PEACEMAKERS KNOW they are POOR in SPIRIT and that OTHER PEOPLE are TOO, and there is NO NEED to TEMPT OTHERS with DRAMA / GOSSIP / SLANDER / FOCUS On the TEMPORARY STUFF that does NOT MATTER in the LONG RUN. PEACEMAKERS BRING PEACE by NOT RESPONDING to THIS WORLD like the REST of the WORLD. In EPHESIANS 2, Paul reminds us that JESUS BROKE down the WALLS of HOSTILITY that SEPARATE US ... even THOSE of us who CLAIM to be CHRISTIANS. BLESSED are those who WORK for PEACE ... and I want to be CALLED GOD'S CHILD.

The WORLD:

What is my ATTITUDE TOWARD the WORLD / People of the WORLD / WAYS of the WORLD? Does my ATTITUDE TOWARD the WORLD MATCH JESUS' ATTITUDE Toward the WORLD?

LISTEN, IF our ATTITUDES do NOT TURN the WORLD TOWARD JESUS, then we are NOT FOLLOWING JESUS! The WORLD pays ATTENTION and all too OFTEN the WORLD OBSERVES PEOPLE who CLAIM to FOLLOW JESUS as NOT ACTUALLY BELIEVING what we SAY we BELIEVE. Our ACTIONS and ATTITUDES LABEL us LIARS ... and we are JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE in the WORLD. We have NOT allowed GOD to TRANSFORM US. We REFUSE to CHANGE the WAY we THINK...

Jesus = MATTHEW 5:10 = ¹⁰ *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.* BTW – “RIGHT” according to JESUS has NOTHING to DO with what WE CALL RIGHT and LEFT. We want to THINK that if we DO the RIGHT THING according to our CONSCIENCE and are PERSECUTED by “The OTHER SIDE,” then we are PERSECUTED for the DOING RIGHT ... NO! You are SIMPLY ALIENATING PEOPLE that JESUS would like to have OPPORTUNITY to WITNESS TO ... THROUGH YOU!

IF we LIVE a CHRIST-LIKE LIFE ... NOT an AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY (It's NOT a THING) ... IF we do the RIGHT THING in GOD'S EYES (NOT the American “church”), we will be PERSECUTED for DOING RIGHT by the RIGHT and by the LEFT!

Right? What's RIGHT? **RIGHT is OBEYING the COMMANDS of JESUS.** TWO COMMANDS = LOVE GOD and LOVE NEIGHBOR. A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU ... LOVE as I HAVE LOVED YOU, you MUST LOVE one ANOTHER ... EVEN IF they are ON the OTHER SIDE. When we DO THAT, we will be PERSECUTED for DOING RIGHT! IF you DO RIGHT, THEN The KINGDOM of HEAVEN is YOURS!

So, WHEN will The PEACEMAKERS start BREAKING DOWN the WALLS of HOSTILITY like JESUS DID? Because IF your HEART is CHRIST-LIKE and you DO WORK to BREAK DOWN WALLS of HOSTILITY between the DIVISIONS in our WORLD ... You WILL be PERSECUTED ... MATTHEW 5:11-12 = ¹¹ *“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. ¹ WHY PERSECUTED? BECAUSE ... You are MY FOLLOWERS.*

NOT ONLY were the Ancient Prophets PERSECUTED this way, but SO WAS JESUS! PEOPLE will MOCK you / MAKE FUN of YOU, because they DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE to DO with YOU. PERSECUTE / HARASS / DISCRIMINATE AGAINST YOU ... They will TELL YOU how WRONG YOU ARE to CARE about “THOSE PEOPLE”!

Make up LIES about you ... SAY EVIL THINGS AGAINST YOU ...

AGAIN, PERSECUTING YOU BECAUSE you are LIVING / LOVING in a CHRIST-LIKE MANNER. WE are PERSECUTED because we have SPIRIT DRIVEN ... MOTIVE!

Let's Pray!

Next Steps: *Memorize Matthew 5:3*
Read Matthew 5-7
Sign Me up for GG#: _____
Invite someone to Worship with you

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!
In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is HIT "**SEND**" your COMPLETED Connection Card

+++++

As our ushers GET READY to come forward

- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... **MATTHEW 5:5 =⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.**
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- Next Week: **MOTIVE – HAVE you EVER started EATING SOMETHING, EXPECTING it to TASTE a CERTAIN WAY, just to DISCOVER it was NOT WHAT YOU THOUGHT?**

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."

Special thanks to Andy Stanley, Warren Wiersbe, Nelson Searcy, and R.A. Pegram for outlines and ideas for this worship series.