

GET USED TO DIFFERENT

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

Series Summary

For many years, I have been thinking about preaching through the greatest sermon that has ever been preached: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It can be read in roughly ten minutes and yet of all the things that Jesus taught, this sermon has been written about more, studied more, examined more, and talked about more than anything else that Jesus ever taught. We are going to entitle this series, "Get Used To Different," because that is exactly what you are going to have to get used to if you are going to take Jesus seriously and trust in Jesus completely.

Declaring Bankruptcy

Get Used To Different | Week 1 | Matthew 5:1-3

NOTES INTRODUCTION Over the next several weeks, we are going to be camping out in a section of the Gospel of Matthew, specifically chapters 5-7. These chapters make up the Sermon on the Mount, the most famous sermon Jesus preached during His earthly ministry. And as we kick off our study of this section of Scripture, we will begin with the Beatitudes, listed in chapter 5. The Beatitudes tell us how to enter the Kingdom of God, how to express the Kingdom of God, and how to enjoy the Kingdom of God. Jesus begins by telling us this, "You will never be filled with God until you realize you are empty without him." Or to put it another way, "You will never be blessed by God until you admit you are bankrupt without Him." Jesus makes it clear that the first step to being different, to finding significance and satisfaction in life, is to declare bankruptcy. Let's dive in to see what this means. **KEY POINTS** 1. We Are Morally Bankrupt Without God The first step to being blessed by God is to be "poor in spirit." Now, it's important to note here that Jesus is not talking about being financially poor. God doesn't put a premium on poverty. There are going to be rich people in heaven just like there are poor people. Rich people can be just as godly as poor people and poor people can be just as greedy as rich people. The word "poor" is the picture of a beggar who crouches low to the ground. He is on all fours looking for a handout. He has absolutely nothing to offer to anybody in exchange for anything. In other words, what Jesus literally said was, "Blessed are the beggars" or "Blessed are the bankrupt." To be poor in spirit is the opposite of being rich in pride. No matter how good you think you are, when you come before a perfect, holy, righteous God your moral bank account is empty. There is nothing good in you or about you without Jesus. This is the state we must get to as followers of Jesus.

Declaring Bankruptcy

Get Used To Different | Week 1 | Matthew 5:1-3

2. We Are Personally Broken Before God	NOTES
To be spiritually bankrupt doesn't just mean you are broke; it means you are broken. The first step to being broken in spirit is	
you see God for who He really is. He is not the man upstairs. He is	
not just a heavenly Santa Claus. He is not just an eternally jolly good fellow. He is wholly perfect, and He is perfectly holy.	
Then, when you see God for who He really is, you see you for who	_
you really are — sinful, selfish, carnal, greedy, prideful and when that happens it breaks your heart. It's this kind of brokenness that leads us to living the humble, holy life Jesus has called us to live.	
3. We Are Eternally Blessed By God	
When you declare bankruptcy here on earth, you don't get anything in return. But as a follower of Christ, you had better get	
used to different, because in the kingdom of God, the way you get rich is to declare bankruptcy. The way to become a child of the	
king is to admit you are a beggar, "Blessed are the poor in spirit,	
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).	_
A humble profession brings a heavenly possession. On earth, you admit you are bankrupt, and they take everything you own. In	
heaven, you admit you are bankrupt, and God gives you everything he has. Get used to different.	
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Declaring Bankruptcy

Get Used To Different | Week 1 | Matthew 5:1-3

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

	1.	How would	you define l	being '	'poor in	spirit" in	your own	words?
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2.	When was a time you stumbled into pride by comparing your sins with
	someone else's? What can you learn from that situation about the value of
	humility and brokenness?

3. What is one practical step you can take to declare bankruptcy and hur yourself before God?	nble

Glad To Be Sad

Get Used To Different | Week 2 | Matthew 5:4

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
In the second beatitude, Matthew 5:4, we see one of the absolute strangest things that Jesus ever said. It is something you would never hear the world say, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). This statement does not align with our natural leaning. We all want to be happy all the time. But Jesus says, in effect, "Happy are the unhappy." You are blessed if at least sometimes you have a broken heart. Honestly, don't we all want to go through life without any sorrow, any pain, any heartache, any suffering? I think it would be wonderful, but you will learn that it is not all you'd expect it to be. I've learned that you grow closer to God in the bad times than you do in the good times. You learn more about yourself, your spiritual maturity, and your real love for Jesus, not in the good times, but in the bad times. So with this in mind, let's take a closer look at what Jesus was talking about in this beatitude and learn how to apply it to our lives as we follow Christ.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Should Be Burdened By The Sin That Convicts Us Do you know the first way you will know that you have truly come to know God? It's when your heart breaks for the sin that has kept you from God. How many times have you heard these words, "Jesus died for your sin?" Do you understand what that means? That means it was your sin and my sin that crucified Jesus.	
We are the ones that spit in His face. We are the ones who drove the nails through His hands. We are the ones who laughed, and mocked, and denied, and deserted Him. If that doesn't break your heart, if that doesn't make you mourn, and if that doesn't bring tears to your heart, you have never been truly saved. We ought to mourn over our personal sin that we still commit day after day.	
2. We Should Be Broken By The Sorrow That Consumes Us	
2 Corinthians 7:10 gives us a great definition of what type of mourning Jesus was talking about in the second Beatitude. It says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."	
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Glad To Be Sad

Get Used To Different | Week 2 | Matthew 5:4

Godly sorrow, mentioned in this verse, is different from worldly sorrow. Godly sorrow first of all is not just to regret things that we wished we hadn't done. What we really regret so often is that we got caught. We are not really sorry for what we did; we are sorry that somebody caught us doing it. Notice in this text Paul says that "godly sorrow leaves no regret."	NOTES
You may think, "I know what godly sorrow is. It is remorse." But it is not just remorse. You can feel sorry that you did something, said something, stole something and in fact, you might even feel good about yourself that you are sorry. You might be glad to be sad in that instance, but that is not godly sorrow. Godly sorrow is regret and it does involve remorse, but Paul says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance" Repentance is the sign that we are broken over our sorrow and sin because we actually make a point to change.	
3. We Will Be Blessed By The Savior That Comforts Us We all know that guilt is a part of everyone's life (at least if you have a healthy conscience.) What is so sad is there are so many people today who live with guilt and die with guilt. They are full of regret and remorse, but they never come to a place of repentance, and a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and receive the comfort of knowing that all is forgiven. That is the comfort that Jesus is talking about here.	
And this is the kind of comfort that is available to us from the Holy Spirit. Whenever you blow it, whenever you mess up, whenever you fall short (and we all do and we all will) the Holy Spirit will take us by the hand and lead us to the cross. Whenever you are carrying the burden of your sin and you are broken by your sin, the Holy Spirit will remind you you've been forgiven of all of your sin. He will give you the comfort you so desperately need.	

Glad To Be Sad

Get Used To Different | Week 2 | Matthew 5:4

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	What are s	some th	nings tl	hat mal	ke you	cry?
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2.	When was the last time you felt truly broken and convicted over your sin	
	How did you respond to that conviction?	

3.	When was a time you experienced the comfort of the Holy Spirit? How did His comfort encourage you and meet your needs in that season of your life?

I Surrender All

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 3} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:5}$

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
We live in such a competitive culture that we are taught never to give up, never to give out, and never to give in. There are certainly times when that is great advice, but there is virtue in a totally different way and for a totally different reason to sometimes giving up and giving in. What we are going to learn today is simply put: the way to be in control is to be surrendered to God's control. That is when you are blessed. That is when you are going to inherit everything that God has for you, both in this life and the life to come.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Let's Define Meekness The word "meek" in the Greek language is a word that was used to describe the taming of an animal. It was a word that was used to describe how you would break a wild horse. Now, two things have to happen to turn a wild horse into a tame horse. First of all, it has to be broken and second, it has to be brought under control.	
So, a meek person is a person whose will has been broken by the power of God and whose will is totally surrendered to the will of God. A meek person is simply someone who has finally and fully waved the white flag and surrendered all that they are to all that God is.	
2. Let's Display Meekness Let's continue with the horse analogy. Imagine there are two horses grazing in the countryside. One is tame and the other is wild. On the outside, they both look exactly identical. They act the same, eat grass the same way, and both neigh the same way.	
How do you know they are different? Just try to put a saddle on both of them and one of those will react far differently because one is a meek horse (a broken horse, a tamed horse, a surrendered horse) while the other is not. That is why a truly meek person will get out of his bed every morning saying three words to God every single day, "I surrender all."	

I Surrender All

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 3} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:5}$

3. Let's Delight In Meekness Now, if you want to know "What's in it for me to be meek?" (although frankly if you were meek you wouldn't ask that question) there is an answer. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).	NOTES
Frankly, we don't know all that that means, but I do know this. What Jesus is saying is, "When you will give God all that should come to Him, you will get all that you would want to come to you."	
Someday God is going to restore this inheritance that Adam lost in the Garden of Eden and that includes all of us who have surrendered everything we are and everything we have to the one who created Adam to begin with. Scripture makes it clear. You need to surrender, humble yourself, wave the white flag to the Creator of the universe, and give everything to Him, and you will get it all and heaven as well.	

I Surrender All

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 3} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:5}$

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How would you have defined "meekness" before hearing today's message?
2.	What are some practical ways you can practice meekness in your day-to-day life?
3.	Is there any part of your life that you haven't fully surrendered to Jesus? If so, what is holding you back from surrendering it all to Him?

A Healthy Appetite

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 4} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:6}$

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
In today's key verse, Jesus says if you have a holy appetite, an appetite for righteousness, you will be filled. That is, you will be satisfied – satisfied in a way that nothing in this world, of this world, or from this world could ever do. We are going to learn today that the healthiest appetite is the holiest appetite. In other words, a healthy appetite leads to holiness, and holiness leads to happiness because happiness leads to the only one who is holy – Jesus. Let's use this analogy of being hungry and being thirsty to learn what it means to have a healthy appetite.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Will Be Famished For Righteousness When you've got a healthy spiritual appetite, you have this desire, this hunger, and this thirst that every thought you think is pure. Every word you say is laced with grace. You want to be everything that God wants you to be and do everything that God wants you to do, the way God wants you to do it, and you do not want to fall one inch or one pound light of God's very best for you. You just have this hunger and thirst that in every situation you live right, that you are right, and you do right regardless of the cost. In other words, you're not famished for happiness; you're famished for holiness.	
2. We Will Be Focused On Righteousness Sometimes we have a false view of righteousness and we tend to think that means we just don't do something wrong. So we kind of try to be righteous by subtraction. We don't steal, don't lie, don't kill, and don't rob banks so we think we're ok. But, as one of my favorite authors put it, "The problem with that approach is this: you can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right Goodness is not the absence of badness and righteousness means more than doing nothing wrong. It means doing something right."	
If we want to have a healthy spiritual appetite, we have to focus not just on avoiding doing wrong, but on making sure we are doing right.	

A Healthy Appetite

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 4} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:6}$

3. We Will be Fulfilled With Righteousness One thing you can count on when you hunger and thirst for God and His righteousness is that you won't go away hungry and you won't go away thirsty. Jesus says plainly, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6). When you hunger for God, God will fill you. You can take that to the bank.	NOTES

A Healthy Appetite

Get Used To Different | Week 4 | Matthew 5:6

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How can you tel	ll if you are l	hungering f	or righ	nteousness?
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2.	What are some practical ways you can for	cus on righteousness and doing the
	right thing this week?	

3.	When was a time you went to God looking for fulfillment and He filled you up? How can you find encouragement today from that situation?