

I Blew it. Now What? Series: When God Get's Personal with my Flaws

Dr. Les Hughes

August 2, 2009

Sermon Outline

Scripture: Matthew 5:5, 8

⁵Blessed are the meek (gentle),
for they will inherit the earth.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Group Session

Opening Question

How often do you believe Christians “blow it” in regard to their Christian walk?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the passage. Those are good promises. Let's unwrap the meaning of these verses to see how we can claim those promises.
2. Les shared that the word “blessed” does not mean “happy” as some translations say. The word is best translated or defined as “to have God's approval or favor”. This is a condition that will give peace and joy that are not based on circumstances. In our culture, how much do you think most people's peace is based on circumstances?

How much better are believers at this than the population in general?

3. Les said that we are not promised “happiness” in the Christian life. Do you agree with that? Are there any religious leaders in our society that would tell you different? Do you see any examples in God's word?
4. Do some of you experience the difference in peace and happiness. Share a story about that if you have one.
5. What does it mean to be gentle or meek? Les said it is “a willingness to suffer, living a God-controlled life, and relying on God's power and not our own.” How is that different than what our culture teaches?

6. If God values meekness, we should pursue it. It helps us remember that we are all flawed and desperately need His presence and grace. Do you ever remember how flawed you are and have an attitude of trusting God? How often should a believer reflect on our imperfections?

(Unless we continue to humble ourselves before God daily, our issues will own us.)

7. What does the phrase "pure in heart" mean to you? (to be pure in heart is to honest with ourselves before God) How can we achieve this? How is being impure in heart a hindrance to our faith?

James 4:8 says, "Purify your hearts you double minded."

Closing Challenge

Below are some challenges in response to today's message:

- a. Consciously commit your life to the control of Jesus.
- b. Confess your flaws daily.
- c. Be honest with yourself about who you are.
- d. Find someone you can be honest with. It is freeing.
- e. Consider being a part of the Celebrate Recovery ministry.

Close with a time of silent prayer and silent confession of sin before God.

Other Passages Cited

Prov. 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Luke 18:14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

1 John 3:3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself.