

Text, Context and The Soul
The Divine Conspiracy #10

The Church and the Kingdom

There Is One Thing To Do Today

- **Simply obey Christ. Do what he said by following him as his disciples.**
- **Stop offering excuses, explanations and even theological justifications for not doing it.**
- **Bumper sticker: there's no excuse for not obeying Christ!**

THERE ARE REASONS--

- **There are reasons or causes for not doing what Christ said. It isn't mystical or "from nowhere."**
- **Find out what those reasons are.**
- **Deal with them, eliminate them, don't focus on their effects.**

The Heart That Jesus Gives

Seen in the Sermon on the Mount:

“A Good Tree Cannot Bring Forth Bad Fruit”

Discipleship to Jesus will bring us to being the kind of person who:

- A. Lives free of contempt and anger (Mt. 5:21-26)
- B. Is free from domination by sexual lust and disgust (Mt. 5:27-32)
- C. Is free of desire to dominate and control verbally (Mt. 5:33-37)

The Heart That Jesus Gives

- D. Is free from grudges, ‘fairness’, and ‘paying back’ (Mt. 5:38-42)
- E. Is able to love enemies and bless those who curse, etc. (Mt. 5:43-48)
- F. Does not ‘perform’ for human credit (Mt. 6:1-18)
- G. Does not trust in physical substances (money, etc.) (Mt. 6:19-34)
- H. Does not manage others by condemnation ‘condemnation engineering’ (Mt. 7:1-12)

The Heart That Jesus Gives

The ‘commands’ of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount are invitations to be a certain type of person, a person who through faith and discipleship to Him has become inwardly transformed so that His behaviors flow naturally (supernaturally, of course) from who they now are as His mature brothers and sisters under the present rule of God.

The Meaning of the Beatitudes

- In the light of the great inversion.
- In the light of Matt. 11:11-12 and Luke 16:16
- They are proclamation of the availability of the kingdom
- Not guarantees of blessedness or unblessableness.

Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

- Not instructions on how to be blessed.
- Not saying you cannot be blessed if you are rich in spirit.
- But breaking the illusion that those rich in spiritual things (position, education, etc) are the only ones blessable.
- Jesus' apostles and he himself were "poor in spiritual things," and were regarded with contempt.

THE POINT

Not that the conditions cited are either good or bad, but (in Matthew), that the conditions cited were “last” in the human realm, and that that did not prevent people in those conditions from being “first” in God’s realm.
(Apply to Luke 6)