Christian Life Series II
BUILDING BLOCKS FOR YOUR BEST LIFE

God wants to build our lives to be the best they can possibly be.

KEY POINTS

- In the spiritual house God is building – The Church of Jesus Christ – He Himself is the chief cornerstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:6). And we, His people, "…as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 2:5).
- In Matthew 5, Jesus mentions seven elements that will cause His people to be suitable material for the construction of His global, multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural building: the Body of Christ.
- **Humility:** *"A modest or low view of one's importance"* (Matthew 5:3).
  - If anyone had reason to think highly of Himself, it was Jesus Christ – Son of God, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, Lamb of God, Beginning and Ending. And yet in John 13:3-5, He kneels on the floor and washes the feet of men. That should humble us!
- **Meekness:** *"Quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on; submissive"* (5:5).
  - Someone has rightly said: "Meekness is not weakness." There was nothing weak about the way Jesus lived and acted. He was the ultimate example of strength and moral character. His meekness was an incredible display of strength and power. When we adopt His mindset (Philippians 2:5-8), He will begin to build this element of His character into us.
- **A strong desire for righteousness** (5:6).
  - How do we go about developing a hunger and thirst for righteousness? By getting to know our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. By walking and talking with Him every day. By observing His character, love, unselfishness and compassion toward silly people who do silly things – people like you and me!
  - The closer we get to Him, the more we desire to be like Him. And He grants our desire, filling us with His righteousness (Romans 3:22; 4:11, 13, 22; 6:13, 16).
- **Mercifulness:** *"Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm"* (5:7).
  - Matthew 18 tells the parable of a king who forgave a servant a huge debt. But the servant then refused to forgive a tiny sum someone owed him. The king reversed his pardon and sent the servant to prison.
  - Jesus was highlighting that our 'sin debt' to God is ridiculously impossible to pay. Others may have wronged us in some way, but what they "owe us" is insignificant compared to the debt God has forgiven us. How will we respond to them? It had better be with mercy!
- **Purity of heart** (5:8).
  - Psalm 24:4 talks about "clean hands and a pure heart." *Good works (see below)* come from a pure heart (Proverbs 21:8). *Love* comes out of a pure heart (1 Timothy 1:5; see also 2 Tim. 2:22).
- **Peacemaking:** *"Bringing about peace, especially by reconciling adversaries"* (5:9).
  - God and man were at odds with each other because of sin. Humans opposed each other for a myriad of reasons.
  - Jesus came to bring peace between humanity and God. He calls us to join in His divine work as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), representing the kingdom of light in a dark world.
  - And we certainly need to model peace in our relationships with each other.
- **Good works:** *"Charitable Acts" (5:16).*
  - These are unselfish acts from a heart of love, in the best interests of another.
- These seven incredibly powerful building blocks for our lives will enable us to fit perfectly into God's building project.
- He is the Master Builder. Let's work with Him as He molds us, makes us and shapes us, after His divine will and purpose.
- We may be different in many ways but, essentially, God wants to build the same things into all of us if we will allow Him.
- He will build for us the best life we could possibly have.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:3-16

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Review the seven elements listed. How are they "lived out" in practical terms? Share examples.
2. Discuss the "spiritual house" metaphor.
   - How do the "Cornerstone" and "building materials" work together to create a stable structure?
   - Can either part work without the other?

Prayer Time

Lord, You are my Strong Tower. Help me to let You use me to help You create – and bring others to – a place of refuge.

L.G. ice-Breaker: What would you think it essential to include if you were designing and building a dream home for yourself/your family?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS