

# Calling the Bride



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“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” – John 8:32

**Moses told us what to do, Jesus tells us what we need to be.**

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain: and when He was set, His disciples came to Him. - Matthew 5:1*

Jesus saw the multitudes, then He left them and went up a mountain and those who were His disciples followed Him; they were willing to make the climb into a deeper relationship with Him and Jesus taught them from the heights.

I'm sure there were some who remained behind, just as there were those who stayed at the base of the mountain when Moses went to commune with God.

If we are willing to climb higher we will hear Him, and we can fellowship with Him spiritually face to face.

Those who followed Him were willing to exert themselves for His behalf. They were not afraid of getting out of breath, or losing track of time or being inconvenienced. They were not worried about what they were leaving behind.

His disciples came to Him.

*And He opened His mouth and taught them saying – Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven* – Blessed are the “needy” in spirit, those who need the things of God, who are not satisfied with the kingdom of this life. Blessed are those who long for the riches of the Kingdom of God, and this Kingdom will be theirs.

*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.* – Blessed are they that have suffered loss in this realm, for there is hope (John 11:25,26). Blessed are those who can grieve for another's loss and comfort them with the comfort that they have received from God, (II Corinthians 1:3,4).

Blessed are those who can mourn, grieve and emphasize with the lost and hurting.

Blessed are those who are endued with the Lord's compassion.

*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.* – For that which has been stolen shall be restored to those who were powerless. To those who were victims, they shall be victorious and rule and reign with Christ, for he that was last shall be first.

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.* – For blessed are

## THE BE-ATTITUDES

those who value holiness and desire virtue as jewels; for they shall be royally adorned within.

*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*  
– For they have learned how to love and they shall reap what they have sown.

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*  
– Blessed are those who can come as little children. In these there is no guile.

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.* – Blessed are those who do not sow dissention but in their mouths are God's eternal words of reconciliation. Blessed are those who sow the Gospel between enemies and so make two one.

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* – Blessed are those who will not compromise.

### THE STILL SMALL VOICE - BLESSED

“Blessed are you – all of you – My disciples, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven. For you loved not your lives on this earth and were willing to sacrifice them for Me on the altar of service. You were willing to take up your cross and carry it for Me wherever I chose to lead you; even when the path you followed was strewn with the fires of persecution, you were willing to endure the flames and you refused to deny My name.

“Blessed are you who were willing to suffer for My name's sake, for your reward is as the prophets who have gone before you and you will be crowned in gold as one of them.

“Blessed are My needy ones, who need Me, and have mourned for the lost who do not. Blessed are you who possess My meekness, My rulers, My righteous, holy merciful bride, who runs into My arms with a child's pure heart, My peacemakers, My evangelists, My martyrs who are willing to die for Me.

“Blessed are you all who were willing to climb this mountain and sit at My feet – for you are My disciples.”



## **BLESSED ARE**...from Matthew 5:3-11

**Blessed Are:** The poor in spirit... They that mourn...The meek...They which do hunger and thirst after righteousness...The merciful...The pure in heart...The peacemakers...The persecuted.

I think Jesus is talking about one person, somebody He found in the alley called life, humbled by sin, mourning for the ruin his own choices have brought him; someone who has finally become meek enough to realize that there is no possible way he could ever change himself. Yet, this street man is so hungry and thirsty for the change that will make him righteous, the blessing comes, the reward for recognizing the need.

Redemption reaches down with a couple of nail-scarred hands, pulls him to his feet and mercy creates mercy in the depths of a needy soul. The heart is cleansed and the ministry of reconciliation begins creating another peacemaker willing to be persecuted for the righteousness he has received.

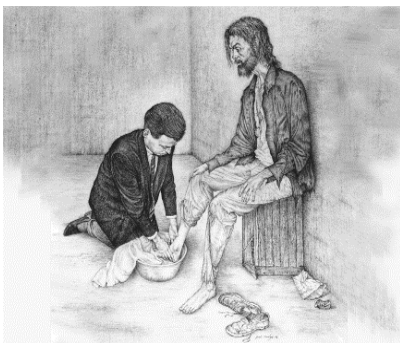
Yeah, I think know this guy. It must be me.

## Beggars

*He raises up the poor out of the dust,  
and lifts up the beggar from the  
dunghill, to set them among princes, and  
to make them inherit the Throne of  
Glory.-I Samuel 2:8*

You beheld with disdain the street man slumped against the alley wall, wallowing on the dunghill of who he is at the moment. But God is viewing him as who he can become. Never underestimate the power of God to change a life.

And you, standing in the ruins of who you think you are, draped in the rags of what this world views as prosperity, leaning on your crutches of pompous respectability; remember, there is hope and mercy for you, too. Never underestimate the power of God to change a life.



*“The Servant” by J.L. Shively from “Jesus and the Poor,” by H. Deborah Shively*

## Before and After - Sheep, Goats and Samaritans *...and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, ... Luke 10:33*

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter ten, verses thirty through thirty-seven, Jesus told a parable in response to the question, “Who is my neighbor?” If we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, then who is qualified to be our neighbor? This parable is called, the parable of the Good Samaritan. In Jesus’ day the Samaritans were objects of much prejudice by the self-righteous Jews; yet, Jesus makes the Samaritan the hero in this story that goes like this.

A man is robbed, wounded and left near death on the side of the road. He is completely ignored by the religious ones who go out of their way to avoid him. Yet we see that the Samaritan “had compassion” on him and inconvenienced himself to help the wounded man. He treated his wounds, took him to an inn and stayed with him until the next day. He gave money to the innkeeper before he left, and told him to spend what was necessary to meet the wounded man’s needs. He gave of his resources and his time without hesitation.

The point of the story is, our neighbor is anyone who needs our help within our capacity to help them. We are not to turn away from the needs of our fellow man, no matter who they are. We are all made in the image of our God.

We notice in this parable that there are three people types; the one who needed help, the people who didn’t help, and the one who responded to the wounded man’s needs. Let’s keep these people groups in mind as we turn the pages in our Bibles and read what happens when Jesus returns in Matthew 25:31-46.

If we look at this passage carefully, we will notice that we are seeing the outcome of Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan. We can see the same three people groups illustrated for us here; the Least of These, the ones needing help, the goats who didn’t help them, and the good, compassionate sheep who did. We understand now how important our Samaritan parable really is for us to comprehend at this moment before the Lord returns. The Lord tests the righteous (Psalm 11:5) and the Samaritans, the sheep, passed that test. The ramifications of how we respond to the needs we see around us has eternal rewards. The sheep are rewarded and the goats are punished. The goats obviously lacked the one ingredient that the Samaritan sheep have in abundance because they are saved, they know their Lord and that ingredient is compassion. The scriptures show us that without love or compassion we are “nothing” (I Corinthians 13:2). Jesus wants us to see Him as the wounded one abandoned on the side of the road who needs our help. And that help isn’t only helping to meet someone’s physical needs. When we share the Gospel, we are quenching their spiritual thirst, we are clothing their nakedness with the covering of salvation; we are feeding them eternal life, releasing them from the prison of their sins and healing their souls. If we can apply the principles of Jesus’ simple parable of the Good Samaritan before we face His judgment seat, then we won’t have to ever worry about what will happen after. *And the King shall answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to Me.’ - Matthew 25:40*