

Plain & Simple

by Wayne Goff

continued from page 354402

the superficial student, it would go right over his head never to return! Often the disciples would take the time to ask Jesus what His parables meant. But you never see the proud and arrogant admit that they didn't understand what He said!

Again, the **Sermon on the Mount** is a most profound message. His audience was awe-struck. Matthew tells us *"that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes"* (**Matt. 7:28-29**). Note that Matthew said the people were *"astonished,"* not *"confounded!"*

Let me challenge you to read a small portion of that sermon — **the Beatitudes** (**Matt. 5:2-12**). Do you understand each of them? They have been called *"Pentecost Pointers"* because they describe the **kind** of person who would hear the Gospel and be converted on the Day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**). Others have called them *"Kingdom Pointers"* because they describe those who would become citizens in the Lord's kingdom. It is important to know the **character** of one who is to be a child of God. If you consider yourself a child of God, then you should *become* these things.

Mark reports of Jesus' teaching that *"the common people heard Him gladly"* (**Mark 12:37**). Even the temple officers who came from the chief priests and Pharisees could not arrest Jesus when told to do so because, they said, *"No man ever spoke like this Man!"* (**John 7:46**). So you see again the amazing combination of **deep truths** couched in **simple words**.

Robertson L. Whiteside

My father quickly introduced my teenage mind to the writings of R.L. Whiteside. His book, *Doctrinal Discourses*, is still one of my favorites. It is actually a compilation of articles he wrote for various religious journals. Most articles are not more than two or three pages long in the book, yet their simple, brief but well-written subjects are excellent food for any Bible student. That's not to say that I agree with everything he wrote. But everything he wrote gives one cause to stop and contemplate the subject. His commentary on Romans is a must have, in my opinion. His good friend, C.R. Nichol, said of this commentary:

"His last book, a Commentary on the Book of Romans, is outstanding and pronounced by many the best commentary ever written on that book. It shows scholarship, close study. One of the most delightful features of the book, in addition to teaching the truth, is that it is couched in language that the ordinary reader grasps, and at the same time appeals to the most profound scholars" [**Gospel Advocate, Vol. XCIII, No. 5, Feb. 1, 1951, p. 74**].

"Plain Talk"

A monthly bulletin I received when I first began preaching was titled "Plain Talk." It was edited by Robert Turner and published by the Oaks-West Church of Christ in Burnet, Texas. It was perfect for my simple mind. Every article in the bulletin was one-page long! The middle section of the 8-page paper was sometimes a two-page article, but it was always good material. Brother Turner could also write in a very simple, deliberate manner, but his material was always thought-provoking, and based on Scripture and logic. I recommend this paper to anyone who can find a copy or a bound edition of it.

"So What?"

I think Christians need to adopt the mind of Christ. The apostle Paul wrote of our calling by Jesus:

"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;" (**1 Cor. 1:26-27**).

If you like complex subjects and deep thinking, you will find plenty of that in God's Word. But when you speak and teach do so as simply as possible for best results. Your listeners will thank you!

354403