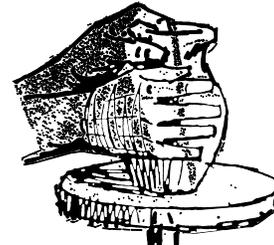


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



Vol. XXII

May 5, 2013

No. 18

Isaiah 64:8

Beatitudes Revisited: Poor in Spirit, Mourn, Meek *by Paula Hendricks*

Poor in Spirit. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* is the first beatitude that Jesus shared in His sermon on the mount. The Beatitudes are not statements that Jesus expects the world to live up to. The Beatitudes describe the essence of a true Christian. And truly, a Christian couldn't possibly be more different from the world! Why? Because we're all born thinking we're something—thinking God would really benefit from having smart, sweet people like us on His team! But while we're busy admiring ourselves, He's stooping down looking into doorways for someone—anyone—who is destitute of spirit, someone holding a "Please Help" sign.

Are You Poor? Jesus doesn't approve of you because of your Bible reading, your prayers, your church attendance, or your purity. He, the Savior of the world, is looking for those who realize they desperately need saving.

I have to ask: Has there ever been a time in your life when you've been wrecked over your sin? Who are you more like in the following story—the Pharisee or the tax collector?

"He [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 'Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted,'" Lk 18:9–14.

Rivers of Tears and Those Who Mourn. Tears and I go together—we always have. When I was a kid, I cried when I was happy, cried when I was sad, and cried when I didn't even know why I was crying. I cried when I skinned my knee. In third grade I wept through the movies *Bambi*, *Fievel Goes West*, and *Old Yeller*. In junior high I cried because

a group of girls hurt my feelings. In high school algebra I fought back tears when faced with mind-numbing quadratic equations.

After reading Jesus's second beatitude, you might think I'd be especially blessed because of all my tears, but that just wouldn't be true: *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted," Mt 5:4.* I told you what I cried over, but did you notice what I didn't cry over? I didn't cry over my sin. And I certainly didn't cry over the world's sin. I didn't relate to *"My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law," Ps 119:136.* How do I know this is what Jesus means when He says, *"Blessed are those who mourn?"* Well, His beatitudes aren't random and chaotic—they're all built on the one before. This second beatitude flows out of the first beatitude, which says the poor in spirit are blessed. When you and I realize that we have nothing good to offer God, when we realize how desperately we need a Savior (poor in spirit), that will lead us to mourn over our sin—and not only our sin, but others' sin as well.

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**"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit."
—Psalm 34:18**

Have you ever cried over sin? Not because you were dealing with its painful consequences, but because it hurts the heart of God? Because it sent God's innocent, perfect Son to the cross?

Or are your eyes dry and your heart hard and unmoved? Worse yet, do you laugh over sin? "How can we laugh over sin," Kay Arthur asks, "when sin nailed Jesus to the cross?" When is the last time you cried? More important, what made you cry? Will you begin to pray along with me, "Lord, God, break my heart for what breaks Yours?" (Ps 34:18; 51:17.) When you do, God promises that He will comfort you. In Arthur's words, "The blessedness does not come in the mourning; it comes in the results of mourning—knowing the comfort of [God's] intimacy, the surety of His arms about you, hearing the beat of His heart as He draws you close to His all-sufficient breast."

Hummus in Hand, Meek I Was Not.

Before I hit I-94 that morning, I read about how on the cross Jesus didn't think of Himself in order to free me from myself. I asked Him to help me live free of self that day, and then—in the smallest of tests in the Art Institute of Chicago—I failed.

It happened under *Mark Chagall's America Windows*—after a lunch of hummus and tabouli in the Garden Café. With leftovers in hand, I asked a security guard the way to the *Picasso and Chicago* exhibit. He ignored my question and fiercely told me I was not allowed to have food in the Art Institute. "Oh, I didn't know," I said and repeated my question about the location of the Picasso Exhibit.

"I won't tell you until you throw your food away," he growled. Muttering to myself, I dumped my food in the near-

est trashcan and got the directions.

I knew I shouldn't mention it to my mom and sisters—after all, I'd asked Jesus to help me live free of self—but I couldn't resist. The security guard had treated me with less respect than I felt I deserved, and my self wanted to flare up and kick back.

I lost sight of the fact that **Jesus was willing to be treated in a way He totally didn't deserve...** in order to take God's wrath that *I did deserve* because of my sin...so I might receive what Jesus deserved—God's love, favor, and righteousness.

What's the big deal, you ask? Isn't it perfectly natural for someone to resist being treated disrespectfully? Sure, but Jesus didn't give me His Spirit so I could continue acting "naturally." One of the marks of Jesus's Spirit is meekness. It's also the third beatitude: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," Mt 5:5.

What does it mean to be meek? Martyn Lloyd-Jones explains it: "The man who is meek is not even sensitive about himself." We think those who exert their power and defend their rights will rule the world. Jesus says just the opposite. Those who are meek (submissive, obedient) will rule the world with Him in the end.

It's what we see the night Jesus was arrested. He knew what was coming, pleaded for a way out, but surrendered to His Father's will: "nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will," Mt 26:39. But we're not Jesus. And meekness is harder than tough!

Lloyd-Jones explains why we fight meekness: "I am aware, when I am honest with myself, of the sin and the evil that are within me, and that drag me down. I am ready to face both of these things. But how much more difficult it is to allow other people to

say things like that about me! I instinctively resent it. We all of us prefer to condemn ourselves than to allow somebody else to condemn us."

Meekness only becomes possible when we have Christ's Spirit living inside of us. I will try to remember that the next time I find myself being talked to in a tone that offends my self. Meekness, as Jesus used the word, is an attitude of heart and mind that is entirely free from demandingness and accepts the will of God in its entirety. J.B. Phillips translates:

"Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them." It is not passivity, but active compliance and obedience to the will of God. "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, ...meekness," Col 3:12.

"The meek do not feel the need to be over-assertive." The meek are so sure of their resources and their goals that they can afford to be compliant. Others have to become aggressive simply because they are unsure of themselves and their goals—hence the universe is closed to them. The meek could be called the assured, for they are meek enough to rest confidently in the resources of God. Of course, this is directly opposite to the world's view of things. The world thinks of power, strength, ability, self-confidence, and self-assurance as the keys to success. The more you assert yourself, the more you affirm yourself, says the world, the more you will get. But such people do not inherit the earth; they just inherit dirt.

Do you know this meek Jesus? Are you allowing Him to exhibit His humility and gentleness through your life when you feel wronged, belittled, or underappreciated? Poor in spirit, mourning, meek—do you approach God with these attitudes?



Psalm 133:1



**Fill your can-
teen in 2013**

“May you be filled
with all the full-
ness of God.”

—Ephesians 3:19

Victoria's Secret, from p. 4 never try to appeal to the pre-adolescent market. “We don't market to that age group,” said Anthony Hebron, a Victoria's Secret spokesman. David A. Morrison, who at the time was President of Twentysomething, a company focused on marketing to young people, and had studied the Victoria's Secret product line, reassured concerned parents, “If Victoria's Secret is blatantly catering to 7th and 8th graders, that might be considered exploitative.” But that was then, and this is now. With young teens representing about \$335 billion worth of spending power, according to Retail Analyst Hitha Prabhakar, there is money to be made, loyalty to be won, and an entire consumer group to milk and manipulate. Apparently, exploiting young girls with beginner-level lingerie in hopes that they will deliver a lifetime of loyalty to Victoria's Secret was too big a temptation for Burdferfer to refuse—dollar signs overrode decency.

Too racy to show here. While Victoria's Secret isn't the first retailer to peddle sexy undergarments to young girls, their line is perhaps the most sophisticated, resembling more closely the lingerie that these girls might see in their moms' closets. In fact, when NBC's TODAY show reported on the “Bright Young Things” product launch, the reporter admitted,

“The latest campaign features underwear too racy to show here.” If it's too inappropriate for NBC to show on their morning program, that's probably a good indication that our young girls shouldn't be wearing it—and moreover, Victoria's Secret should not be selling it. As a mom of a 14 year old, I'm wondering where are the cries of moral responsibility and societal ethics. We certainly hear our fair share about corporate responsibility when it comes to the food and drinks marketed to our children. Why doesn't that same principle apply to what apparel we peddle to our tweens? Our country is replete with an unprecedented number of young girls suffering from eating disorders and body mutilation, while pushing the limits of sexual promiscuity. Is this racy underwear that is modeled by unrealistically thin girls really the best that we have to offer our girls? In this age when female sex trafficking is becoming a wide-spread crisis, reaching into the depths of our inner cities in our country, is it really responsible for Victoria's Secret to entice impressionable young girls with a “come hither” message?

Underwear that reads, “Call me” does nothing but cheapen a girl's self-esteem while exacerbating the objectification of her God-given femininity. Our children are being objectified by retailers who see them as nothing more than a path to increased profits. Victoria's Secret is ready to sacrifice our daughters' innocence, compress their childhood, and devalue their self-worth all for the purpose of bolstering its bottom line. **Our daughters are precious and intrinsically valuable. They deserve better—they deserve to be cherished and protected.** Like VS, in a Tide commercial, a father tries to protect his daughter by putting her mini-skirt in the trash, but the mother and daughter conspire against him and retrieve it. This is wrong on so many levels, but where is our outrage?

Discipleship Here At Home

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here & away

Mark Campbell—had seizure last Sun and banged head in same spot previously injured; now conscious in ICU at St. Anthony's Hospital; no calls or visits

Nell Free—had a new pacemaker put in last week; had some complications but is now at home

Madge Wallace—lung cancer; fluid that had caused collapsed lung was drained last week; now on oxygen

Matt Reames—home, no abnormal pressure on brain; further tests required

Judy Strand's son Joe Huff—recurrence of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

Alexander Gintchin's classmate, Jack Miller—2 brain tumors; age 6

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr;

Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis

Rod Green—thyroid trouble

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, staph infection on toes from diabetes; **Virginia**, now legally blind from rapid macular degeneration; high BP

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; pain

Job concerns Andrew Tope and Frank Savarese are seeking jobs. **The Menards' son** is out of work.

Traveling DeWayne and Kim Howell are in CA this weekend.

Brett Witherington is away M-F for work. **Pat Campbell** is in AR caring for her parents until end of May.

REJOICE Connor Boyd put on his Lord Jesus Christ in baptism recently. Congratulate **Lindsey Bennett**, who will graduate from high school this month.

Expecting Marie Carlson—July 1 girl; **Amy Vander Kooi**—August, boy



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Victoria's Secret Is Coming for Your Pre-Teen

by Amy Gerwing

I should have seen this one coming. My first red flag went up last November when Justin Beiber, the teen icon that's worshiped by nearly every American girl under the age of 14, tweeted that he was getting ready to sing at the highly provocative Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

Within minutes, Beiber was on stage performing alongside scantily-dressed Victoria Secret Angels, while millions of young girls—80% of whom struggle with body image—eagerly watched at home. The not-so-subliminal marketing message was sent: *I like Justin Beiber, Justin Beiber likes Victoria's Secret, and therefore I should buy Victoria's Secret.*

However it would be years before these young Beiber fanatics, with their tiny pre-puberty frames, could indulge in Victoria's Secret sexy lingerie—at least that's what America believed...until now. As of this spring, the risqué brand will launch an undergarment line aimed specifically at pre-teens and young teenage girls. And lest you think that Victoria's Secret has toned down its recognizably racy style to appeal to this younger demographic, think again. The new brand, called, "Bright Young Things," includes lace black cheeksters with the word "Wild" emblazoned on them, green and white polka-dot hipsters screen printed with "Feeling Lucky?" and a lace trim thong with the words, "Call me" on front.

Chief Financial Officer Stuart Burgdoerfer of Limited Brands, of which Victoria's Secret is a subsidiary, announced the company's new marketing demographic at a recent conference, claiming about younger girls: "They want to be older, and they want to be cool like the girl in college, and that's part of the magic." So based on Burgdoerfer's logic, would it also be "magic" to make alcohol available to our preteens so that they can be "cool like the girl in college"? What about condoms, co-ed showers, and marijuana? While it's true our young girls do observe older teens for social cues and trends, does that obligate us to gratify their curiosity with content that's mature beyond their years—and sinful at any age?

While Burgdoerfer may try to sell the notion that Victoria's Secret is only responding to market demands for middle school lingerie, it was just a few years ago that Victoria's Secret claimed it would

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Westside church of Christ

meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 233-5683

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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This morning: *"Church Discipline,"*
by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon:

A Walk in Their Sandals Series
"Pharaoh," by Lorenzo Gonzalez

Rod Green is preaching at Salida this morning.