

## JESUS, OUR PAIN & OUR POWERLESSNESS

June 8, 2014 Matthew 5:4-5 by Bob Branch  
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 3

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**MAIN IDEA:** In Jesus, God and his kingdom rule pierce through the veil between heaven and earth to meet us (where we are)... in our raw, flawed and sinful humanity with surprising power, grace and hope. We must be willing to acknowledge where we are and be responsive to him. Today, into our pain & our powerlessness.

**Starts with God's kingdom coming near.**

**Beatitudes say who's IN: who God blesses with his near kingdom.**

**All turns on the definition of "Blessed" (*makarios*)**

**"Blessed" is to the** healed, poor, oppressed and pained.

"surprisingly fortunate, startlingly lucky, unexpectedly graced"

**First beatitude:** *"You're surprisingly fortunate in your spiritual poverty ...spiritually bankrupt, deprived and deficient... God's kingdom meets you there."*

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who *are mourning*, for they will be comforted.

1. **You are surprisingly fortunate if your heart is broken, for God's kingly COMFORT comes to you and breaks into your sorrow.**

"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; the Spirit of truth... **John 14:16-17** KJV (14:26; 15:26; 16:7; Is. 61:2)

**Will you let yourself be in pain, and let him comfort you?**

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the *meek*, for they will inherit the earth.

**Meek?** Difficult.

"Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them!" **Matthew 5:5** JBP

2. **If you are not able to manipulate, control or change your life circumstances, you are surprisingly lucky... God's nearness will RELEASE everything you need.**

"Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth." **Numbers 12:3** ESV (not defensive, aggressive or controlling; quiet confidence, humble; w/o pride; didn't claim his rights; strength under control; trusting God rather than self)

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."  
**Matthew 11:29** (not demanding-overbearing, pushy or controlling; not manipulating to get his way; considerate)

**Jesus:** Gentle strength. Strength under control. Power w/o harshness

Holding things... **with an open hand.**

3. **Moving in meekness may mean GIVING UP CONTROL of a process, people, group, job. Trusting God. Not insisting on your own way.**