

**MID-MORNING FEATURING DR. MITCHELL KRUSE**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

**SATISFACTION THROUGH SURRENDER (PART TWO) (MATTHEW 5:7-12)**

**NEXT SHOW: MARCH 20**

Where do you go to satisfy your desires? Jesus gave the secret to satisfaction in the greatest speech ever given when he addressed an estimated 20,000 followers along the mountainside outside Capernaum. He taught that we find *satisfaction through surrender* to Christ who brings us into the kingdom of heaven, His will for our lives.

**(5) SATISFIED ARE THE MERCIFUL (MATTHEW 5:7)**

Who has seized an opportunity to wrong you? Do you find yourself believing that your desires can be satisfied only through condemnation of that person? Perhaps, you pray for God to bring justice, conviction, and punishment. Too often this is the case in our lives, and we discover that seeking satisfaction of our desires through condemnation of an offender leaves us dissatisfied. In His fifth secret to satisfaction through surrender, Jesus offered us a different way: "*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy*" (Matthew 5:7).

**Who are satisfied?** The merciful are satisfied. Jesus taught, "*Blessed are the merciful*" (Matthew 5:7). By definition mercy implies two components: (1) someone is condemned and (2) someone is forgiven. This takes place in our lives vertically with God and horizontally with others. As sinners, each of us stood condemned vertically with God (Romans 5:16-18). Consequently, when we condemn others horizontally in our relationships, we are dissatisfied (Romans 2:1). In His statement about the kingdom of heaven—God's divine reign, rule, and order in our hearts and lives now and in the future—Jesus said that horizontal mercy is evidence of vertical mercy received from God.

The Bible tells us that mercy is the desire of Christ's heart (Matthew 9:13, 36; 12:7; John 3:17-18). One of the most powerful images of mercy rests in the story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). "Mercy" in Latin, *misericordia*, combines two words "pity" and "heart." Mercy flows from the heart cheerfully and only by the gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:8).

**Why are they satisfied?** "*They will be shown mercy*" (Matthew 5:7). They will receive mercy vertically from God. They will be free of condemnation. Paul said that there is no condemnation for those who are in the mercy of Christ (Romans 8:1). The Old Testament prophet Micah said that God delights in giving mercy to those who are condemned (Micah 7:18-19). Recognizing our mercy received vertically from God in Christ frees us to show mercy horizontally to others.

**How are they satisfied?** They surrender their condemnation—vertically and horizontally (Luke 6:36-37). Jesus said that if we are not characterized and known by administering mercy horizontally to others, then we will not receive mercy from God (Matthew 6:14-15). To do so, we must surrender our condemnation. Surrender says to God, "I can't. You can. I can't satisfy my desires through condemnation of the person who wronged me. You can satisfy my desires through mercy."

***STREET SMARTS FOR THE RESTORATION ROAD...***

By the power of the Holy Spirit, surrender your condemnation of the person who wronged you today. You will be satisfied through mercy.

## (6) Satisfied are the Pure in Heart (Matthew 5:8)

What do you add to your devotion to God to satisfy your desires? The equation usually looks like this: (God + \_\_\_\_\_ = satisfaction). What do you place in your blank? It might be money, sex outside of God's design, porn, risk, a rush, a smoke, a toke, a drink, or a line. It might seem as innocent as attention, affection, acceptance, approval, bigness, an attractive spouse, behaving children, or even religion. In any case, the result is a mixed devotion of the heart. The Bible alludes to these mixed devotions as *impurities*, or idols, because they compete with our full devotion to God. John said that anyone who does evil has not seen God (3 John 11). In His sixth secret to satisfaction to surrender, Jesus taught a better way: "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God*" (Matthew 5:8).

**Who are satisfied?** The pure in heart are satisfied. "*Blessed are the pure in heart*" (Matthew 5:8). The Bible uses the word "pure" most frequently in reference to precious metal, usually gold. Precious metals must be refined to become pure. This process involves intense heat that brings impurities to the top of the crucible (silver) or the furnace (gold) so that the refiner can remove them. The deepest impurities rise last after an intense time of heat. Just like the crucible is used for silver, and the furnace for gold, so God tests our hearts to discover whether they are *pure*—wholly devoted, or fully surrendered, to Him (Proverbs 17:3). Paul warned us to not be led away from our pure and sincere devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Our ultimate example of a pure heart is the heart of Christ. The Bible tells us that Christ is pure in heart (1 John 3:3; Hebrews 7:26). He demonstrated a fully surrendered heart with unmixed devotion to the Father.

**Why are they satisfied?** "*They will see God*" (Matthew 5:8). The God of the universe will demonstrate His kingdom in their hearts and lives. They will see Christ in themselves. This is illustrated in the molding of silver or gold. The metal refining process continues until the refiner can see his reflection in the metal. Then the metal is fashioned in its useful state. As the refiner of the heart, God removes our impurities until He sees the reflection of Christ's pure heart in us (Romans 8:29). When God sees Christ in us, we see God. David noted that our desires would be satisfied when we see Him (Psalm 17:15). He communicated that God would show Himself pure to the pure in heart, but He would judge those with mixed devotions (2 Samuel 22:27; cf. Psalm 18:26). Addressing those with impurities, God promised to reveal Himself to anyone who would seek Him with all of his heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

**How are they satisfied?** They surrender their impurities (mixed devotions). Surrender says to God, "I can't satisfy my desires with mixed devotions. You can satisfy my desires when they are fully devoted to you." In order to do this, we need to follow David's example—(1) ask God to search our heart for any mixed devotions (Psalm 139:23-24) and (2) create in us a pure heart (Psalm 51:10).

### **STREET SMARTS FOR THE RESTORATION ROAD...**

Ask God to search your heart for any mixed devotion and to renew in you a pure heart—one that is fully devoted to Him. You will be satisfied through your unmixed devotion to the Creator who will reveal Christ in you.

## (7) Satisfied are the Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)

Do you have un-reconciled, relational conflict? Conflict is defined as two objects attempting to occupy the same space at the same time. God designed peace for our relationships (Genesis 1:28). With sin came negative conflict (Genesis 3). Negative conflict includes at least one foolish option. It is *internal*—our sinful nature and the Spirit are in conflict with each other (Galatians

5:17). It is also *external* in our relationships. Consequently, when someone wrongs us, we attempt to satisfy our desires through negative conflict. In His seventh secret to satisfaction through surrender, Jesus shared: “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God*” (Matthew 5:9).

**Who are satisfied?** The peacemakers are satisfied. “*Blessed are the peacemakers*” (Matthew 5:9). *Internally*, peace is a heart condition that flows from the peaceful relationship of the Godhead—Christ (Colossians 3:15), the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), and the Father (1 Corinthians 14:33). *Externally* in our relationships, we are commanded by Paul to be peacemakers: “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18). Peace is reconciliation. Forgiveness always precedes reconciliation, but reconciliation does not always follow forgiveness because peace requires two willing hearts. Paul went on to say that we should not attempt to satisfy our desires with negative conflict (revenge), but we should leave room for God (Romans 12:19).

Peace is in the heart of Christ who made our peace with God, allowing us to have peace with others (Ephesians 2:14-22). *Internally*, we experience vertical peace by the work of Christ. *Externally*, we can experience horizontal peace in our relationships by the work of Christ.

**Why are they satisfied?** “*They will be called the sons of God*” (Matthew 5:9). “*Son*” means “likeness.” Faith in Christ makes us sons of God (Galatians 3:26-29). His Spirit tells ours that we are God’s children (Romans 8:16). As God’s children, we are *heirs* of His kingdom empowered to live in *harmony* in relationships (Romans 12:16). Therefore, we are satisfied when we exhibit the likeness of Christ in our relationships by exchanging our desire for negative conflict with a desire for making peace. Proverbs tells us that it is better for us to have a little with peace in our relationships than to have a lot with un-reconciled conflict (Proverbs 17:1). Peace in relationships allows us to experience the kingdom of God—His divine reign, rule, and order on this earth now and in the future (Romans 14:17).

**How are they satisfied?** They surrender their conflict. Surrender says to God, “I can’t satisfy my desires through negative conflict (revenge) toward the person who wronged me. You can bring peace to the un-reconciled conflict in my life.”

*First, we must pray for wisdom*—God’s heart combined with street smarts. Conflict is why Solomon asked God for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-9). *Internally*, when we pray for wisdom, the peace of God will guard our hearts in Christ (Philippians 4:7). When we have internal peace with God, He makes our enemies live at peace with us (Proverbs 16:7).

*Second, we must go make peace.* Jesus, the personified wisdom of God, said that when we have un-reconciled conflict, we should go make peace and agree (Matthew 18:15-20). *Agree* in Greek is where we get the English word for *symphony*. *Externally*, when we have harmony in our relationships, we make a symphony to God. Proverbs tells us that God’s wisdom brings peace that satisfies our desires more than negative conflict can (Proverbs 3:15-17).

### **STREET SMARTS FOR THE RESTORATION ROAD...**

Identify your conflict. What two objects that are attempting to occupy the same space at the same time? First, pray for wisdom and experience the peace of God in Christ. Second, go make peace with your counterpart in the conflict. Live in harmony and make a symphony to God

### **(8) Satisfied are those who are Persecuted because of Righteousness (Matthew 5:10-12)**

When you are insulted, persecuted, or slandered for your full surrender to Christ, do you endure or give up? The source of the insults might be a spouse, co-worker, friend, or foe. In any event,

he is threatened by full surrender to Christ because he doesn't want to surrender something. When this hardship for our faith comes, we often attempt to satisfy our desires by giving up. In His eighth secret to satisfaction, Jesus gave us a different way: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:10).

**Who are satisfied?** Those who endure persecution for full surrender to Christ are satisfied. *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness"* (Matthew 5:10). Those who are blessed are those who are persecuted for Christ's righteousness, not their own. If we have ever been persecuted for our righteousness in Christ—our full surrender to Him—then we might not be fully surrendered. Wholly devoted people boldly advance the kingdom of God through evangelism and discipleship, and at some point, they are persecuted by others (Matthew 10:22; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12).

Enduring persecution flows from the heart of Christ (John 6:27). When Jesus was insulted, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to God (1 Peter 2:23). Jesus considered it joy to endure the cross so that those who would experience persecution from full surrender to Him would endure (Hebrews 12:2-3). He told His disciples that those who endure persecution to the end will be saved (Matthew 10:22; 24:13-14).

**Why are they satisfied?** *"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:10). Those who endure persecution for full surrender to Christ possess God's divine reign, rule, and order in their hearts and lives both now and in the future. Jesus said that those who endure insults, persecution, and slander have a great reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11-12). That reward is praise from God based on our intimacy with Him and our relationships with others (1 Corinthians 4:5). Just as persecution and suffering flow from our connection to Christ, so will our comfort flow from Christ, producing endurance in us (2 Corinthians 1:5-6). Paul said that those who endure will reign with Christ in His kingdom; those who disown Christ will be disowned by Him (2 Timothy 2:12; cf. Matthew 10:32-33).

**How are they satisfied?** They surrender their persecution. Surrender says to God, "I can't satisfy my desires by giving up. I can't endure the persecution for my full surrender. You can." This heart condition results in two behaviors.

*First, we must bless those who persecute us, praying for their surrender to Christ* (Matthew 5:44). Paul said, "When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly" (1 Corinthians 4:12-13).

*Second, we must evangelize others to full surrender.* Paul confirmed that he had endured persecution for his faith so that others would fully surrender their hearts to Christ (2 Timothy 2:10). He went on to tell Timothy to endure hardship and evangelize (2 Timothy 4:5). Jesus commanded his disciples to preach His gospel of full surrender enduring its subsequent hardships to the end (Matthew 24:13-14). Peter said that when we are persecuted for evangelizing others to full surrender to Christ, we are blessed because the Spirit of God rests on us (1 Peter 4:14). Our desires will be satisfied when we advance Christ's kingdom of full surrender to the point of enduring persecution.

### ***STREET SMARTS FOR THE RESTORATION ROAD...***

Surrender your persecution. First, bless anyone who is persecuting you by praying for his surrender to Christ. Endure and answer kindly. Second, evangelize others to full surrender in Christ. Experience the Spirit of God restoring your life.

## **Conclusion**

Left to ourselves, we proudly pursue the satisfaction of our desires apart from God, as we attempt to be designer and restorer of our own lives. Jesus taught satisfaction through surrender to Him. He will reign in our lives when we say to Him, "I can't. You can."