

170 – The Word MUST add up

This past Sunday morning, we were reading Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*, in which he referred to the "sermon on the mount." Every time I hear or read, or even think about the Sermon on the Mount, I remember the profound sense of relief, of confirmation, and of gratitude to the Father when I saw the Concordant Literal rendering of the beatitudes for the first time. I don't know how it is for most people, but the Father put in me an inescapable obsession about things adding up, meaning things have to make sense. This doesn't mean that I have to *understand* everything, but they have to "add up"; they have to make sense, and this is a particular obsession when it comes to the Scriptures. Let me tell you what I mean:

All through my growing up years in the Methodist Church, going to Sunday school, and then sitting in services and listening to sermons, the Bible never made sense to me. I heard the words, but when I looked at the pages, it seemed like one big jumble of archaic words and nonsensical ideas. I could never wrap my brain around the Bible, let alone God Himself. I knew deep down inside me that I was connected to Him, but nothing outside of me confirmed that sense. For many years, eastern religious philosophy and brain wave manipulation made much more sense to me than Christianity. I never even read the Scriptures outside of church until after I was filled with the spirit in 1971 at 20 years old.

One of the most troubling Scriptures to me was **Matthew 5:3**:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Virtually every English version of the Bible reads almost identically. My problem was that the words made no sense. How do people who are, "*poor in spirit*," essentially wind up owning the kingdom of heaven (whatever that meant, because the whole "*kingdom of heaven*" was another issue all its own? It didn't add up; it didn't make sense; and *because* it didn't add up – something that has been read the same way in churches and homes for centuries, and simply accepted wholesale, never questioned by Christians worldwide – it made God nonsensical, unapproachable, and unrelatable. I've read several commentaries on Matthew 5:3 by learned theologians who apparently never looked at the Greek text, and they have gone to great lengths to make sense of something that is wrongly translated in the first place. Here's is but one example from The Asbury Bible Commentary on [Bible Gateway](#):

The poor in spirit ([5:3](#)) are those who recognize their moral and spiritual poverty before the holy God and hence cast themselves entirely upon his mercy and grace. Such persons are blessed because they experience the rule of God in their own lives now (cf. [4:17](#); [12:28](#)) and are assured of participating in the future kingdom God will establish at the end of history (cf. [25:31-46](#)).

Here's the commentary from the Reformation Study Bible, also on [Bible Gateway](#), "*Widely considered one of the best tools available for Bible study, the Reformation Study Bible is edited by theologian R.C. Sproul and contains thousands of in-depth study notes compiled from over 50 distinguished biblical scholars*":

poor in spirit. Those with the greater spiritual need are more likely to perceive their need and depend on God alone and not their own goodness. Paul notes the same principle in [Rom. 9:30, 31](#). The parallel in [Luke 6:20](#) omits "in spirit." This has led many to suppose Jesus primarily spoke of the materially poor. Material poverty and recognition of spiritual need often go together ([Ps. 9:18](#) note), but the two kinds of poverty are not identical.

With such utter consistency among people whose work pastors study and then use in preaching and teaching, it's no wonder that lay people like you and me, would simply buy into the same confusion that has captured everyone else. How would we conceive of another possibility, another interpretation? And this brings me back to my original point: God has to make sense; His word has to add up, or else I can't relate to Him. If I can't relate to Him, I can't possibly be like Him or hope to become anything close to His likeness.

So, just a few months after I received the Spirit and established that wondrous and invaluable direct connection to the Father, I held the Concordant Literal New Testament in my hands for the first time. I read the story of how it came about and how A.E. Knoch decided upon his unique method of translating the Scriptures from the oldest Greek manuscripts available. At first, it was as difficult to read as any King James version ever was, but as diligent study progressed, along with a working knowledge study of the Greek alphabet and language, I discovered sense, logic, and understandability in the Scriptures.

Here is Matthew 5:3 again from the ESV and then the CLNT:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Happy, in spirit, are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens. (CLNT)

Ahh! Now the Father's word adds up, it makes sense, and as it does, He becomes approachable, relatable, and profoundly lovable.

When I look at Bibles that most people read, I see a book that hides the Father's true nature and character, to say nothing of His purpose. It's a book that to me is full of incomprehensible confusion that conflicts within itself and doesn't add up.

You know, when I changed careers in 1990 from printing and publishing to chiropractic, I considered medical school; however, the only area that interested me was surgery, and after my first experience with bio-energetics, I realized that pain, illness, and dysfunction were natural and necessary responses to my own choices in 8 specific areas of life that I was entirely in charge of every day. I also discovered quickly that all those necessary responses we call symptoms or label with a name we call a disease, could be made *unnecessary*; and that making them unnecessary made surgery unnecessary – or any other “*treatment*” for that matter. I share that to illustrate that *all* of the Father's creation adds up; it all makes sense, just like He Himself makes sense and everything about Him and His word adds up. Conversely, what man has created often makes sense only when he adopts dogmatic perspectives that limit himself and his God. The fact that these limitations fly in the face of reality cannot even be recognized until we open ourselves to perceive more than we thought was possible.

So . . . the theologians look at what has always been and try to explain it, with the idea that we'll never understand God in the first place, so the best we can do is accept the limits of our understanding and make the best of it we can. Pathetic, isn't it? It's disheartening too – to me anyway – because we DO have better right at our fingertips. The fact that so many don't choose to look for it, let alone take advantage of it, grieves my spirit; perhaps it grieves the Father's Spirit too.

Today, when I open the Scriptures, no matter what version I may look at, I am always wondering what the original text shows. I'm very reluctant to get too deep into any part of the Scriptures without knowing what the actual text shows, because my Father is in His word – not someone's idea of His word, but the word He spoke and inspired someone to write. I want to know HIS word and I want His word alive in me. Nothing else adds up, but His word *always* adds up – He *always* makes sense. I may not understand Him all the time – I would be truly arrogant to think that I do understand Him fully while I carry death in my flesh; nevertheless, He and His word make sense . . . they add up.

Why would the Father speak to men and women who were *incapable* of understanding His word? The Scriptures are full of His life, His character, His love, His purpose. All we have to do is read what He inspired to be written – not someone’s interpretation of it – and we’ll find our Father: the One Who said, “*Let there be you.*”

John 17:17

Hallow them by Thy truth. Thy word is truth.

Matthew 4:4

It is written, “Not on bread alone shall man be living, but on every declaration going out through the mouth of God.”

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and operative, and keen above any two-edged sword, and penetrating up to the parting of soul and spirit, both of the articulations and marrow, and is a judge of the sentiments and thoughts of the heart.

13 And there is not a creature which is not apparent in its sight.

Proverbs 30:5

Every saying of Eloah is refined [tested and proven true].

Matthew 15:6-11

You invalidate the word of God because of your tradition.

Do you know that the FIRST meaning of “tradition” in the lexicon is “*giving up, giving over; the act of giving up*”? Isn’t that scary?! Here’s more of the definition: “*a giving over which is done by word of mouth or in writing, i.e. tradition by instruction, narrative, precept, etc.*” How often in these studies have you heard me use the term, “*traditional Christianity*”? I don’t recall having looked up the definition before today, but it sure fits my understanding of religious tradition; it is something that Christians have given themselves over to; it’s just what has been handed down, “*by word of mouth and in writing*”; it is “*tradition by instruction*,” as opposed to something that has been arrived at through careful, intellectually honest investigation of the Scriptures themselves.

The Lord said, “*You render the word of God void because you have given yourselves over to what has been handed down – and, we could add, ‘has been badly twisted and polluted’ – therefore, you deprive it of force and authority*”

7 Hypocrites! Ideally Isaiah prophesies concerning you, saying,

8 This people with their lips is honoring Me, Yet their heart is away at a distance from Me.

9 Yet in vain [in futility] are they revering Me, Teaching for teachings the directions of

men." [Now THERE is the Father's definition of "tradition."]

10 And, calling the throng to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand! [because you certainly haven't up to now!]

Notice that the Lord says, "Hear and understand." He does not say, "Hear, but forget about understanding; it's just too deep, too mysterious, and should be left only to the theologians to understand and explain." For anyone who reads the Scriptures and scratches his head, unable to grasp the meaning, like I used to do, this should encourage and permit *everyone* to recognize, make sense of, and even follow the Father's word, which is written, finally, for *everyone* to understand.

The Lord then delivers a simple but powerful one sentence principle and instruction:

11 Not that which is entering into the mouth is contaminating a man, but that which is going out of the mouth, this is contaminating a man."

"What we speak" became the 7th of "8 Master Keys to Unlock Your Total Health," in the book, CLEAN HOUSE, and now an audio recording I made recently for everyone who registers at CleanHouseBook.com to get all the additional content that was promised in the book.

So, we have seen so far that the Father's word is refined, tested and proven true; it FEEDS us, and exposes everything, because nothing can hide from it. We have also seen, however, that we can rob it of its authority and render it useless – in our own lives and others who may hear us – when we give ourselves over to anything that's just handed down by others, who may have been as ignorant as we were.

Ultimately, we will not render the Father's word void, however, since, after all, it is HIS word, not ours.

We have often looked at **Isaiah 55: 8**, and we know it by heart:

My designs are not your designs and your ways are not my ways.

Look with me now at **Isaiah 55:6-11**.

Seek after Yahweh while He is to be found;

Call Him while He comes to be near.

7 Let the wicked ~~one~~ forsake his way,

And the lawless man his devisings,

And let him return to Yahweh,

And He shall have compassion on him,

And to our Elohim, For He shall multiply pardon.

8 For My designs are not your designs,
And your ways are not My ways, averring is Yahweh.

9 For as the heavens are loftier than the earth,
So are My ways loftier than your ways,
And My designs than your designs.

10 For just as the downpour descends and the snow from the heavens,
Yet it does not return there,
But rather it soaks the earth
And causes it to bear and sprout,
And it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

OK, here it comes: the climax and the reason for reading this text together tonight:

11 So shall My word be that shall go forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me empty,
But rather it does what I desire
And prospers in that for which I sent it.

How simple the Father's description is of His own word – His declaration: He uses an altogether commonly understood, Earthly analogy, of rain and snow that follows a 3-step process, ultimately resulting in food:

1. Soaks the earth
2. Causes earth to bear and sprout
3. Gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

This is a wonderful reminder and encouragement to me, because while it may seem to me that the world appears ignorant of the true word of YaHoVeH, He has sent it down like rain and snow and it will not, as He says, return to Him empty; rather it does what He desires – how comforting is that! – and prospers; that is, it fares well in the purpose for which He sent it. This brings me once again face to face with the Father's sovereignty. He is Elohim and there is no other. Praise His holy name!

If the Father's word were so mysterious that we common folk couldn't understand it, it would also carry no power: no power to enlighten or edify, to correct or encourage, to teach or reveal, and certainly no power to save, heal, deliver, or set free. But the Father's word does all these and more.

Here's Paul in his last letter to Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:7-18

Apprehend what I say, for the Lord will be giving you understanding in it all.

Right away, Paul says, “Apprehend,” which is, “perceive with your mind what I say, for – or because – the Lord will be giving you understanding in it all.” There is no direction EVER in the Scriptures that we are incapable of carrying out. There is no futility in any of it; rather, the Father’s word is entirely successful when we perceive it. None of the Scriptures and nothing in any of the Scriptures was said or was it written to be incomprehensible or nonsensical to anyone; so, if ever we find it so, the problem is in us, not in the word of YaHoVeH.

Also, in verse 7, Paul says, “the Lord will be giving [us] understanding in it all.” He’s going to make darn sure that we get what He has for us in the word He sends to us. Our job is to apprehend first, or perceive His word with our minds. Throughout my experience in the Methodist church, from the time I was in Kindergarten until I walked out at around 18, I perceived nothing except religion and tradition, and it was pretty much all futility. I came to the Lord when, at 19 years old, I heard the sound of a gymnasium full of people worshipping in the Spirit. That’s why, I am certain, that I love to hear Barbara singing in the spirit throughout the house. I don’t believe she even thinks about what she’s doing; it just comes out of her.

Paul goes on in **2 Timothy 2:8-9**:

8 Remember Yeshua the Messiah, Who has been roused from among the dead, is of the seed of David, according to my evangel,

9 in which I am suffering evil unto bonds as a malefactor -- but **the word of God is not bound.**

“I may be a prisoner,” Paul says, “but the Father’s word isn’t.” Then Paul says in verse 15-18:

15 Endeavor to present yourself to God qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly cutting the word of [the] truth.

Perhaps the most significant “cutting” or dividing that we have done together in *Light up the Scriptures*, at least from a doctrinal perspective – and we had some major help in seeing it – is recognizing the sa-tan as part of ourselves; that is, part of our old humanity, our adamic nature, and not some spiritual entity as YaHoVeH’s arch nemesis.

The next thing Paul does in verse 16-18, is to show us what happens when people with intentions other than those of the Father get hold of His word:

16 Yet from profane prattlings stand aloof, for they will be progressing to more irreverence,

17 and their word will spread as gangrene, of whom are Hymeneus and Philetus,

18 who swerve as to truth

I heard a preacher within the last week, in the midst of his sermon, say, “*Saints don’t die.*” The implication was obvious to his audience and should be to us now that believers in the Messiah, when they “die,” they go straight to Heaven to be with the Lord. Never mind that the Scriptures don’t say that anywhere; This man was simply parroting the tradition, which has been handed down, and to which he and most of Christendom, has given itself over to believing and repeating. Talk about failing utterly to apprehend the word of YaHoVeH, let alone “endeavor[ing] to present [one]self to God qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly cutting the word of the truth”!

1 Timothy 4:1-5

- 1 Now the spirit is saying explicitly [great word that connotes clarity], that in subsequent eras some will be withdrawing from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and the teachings of demons,
- 2 in the hypocrisy of false expressions, their own conscience having been cauterized; [when we cauterize something, we seal it off, so that nothing we don’t want gets in and nothing we do want gets out]
- 3 forbidding to marry, abstaining from foods, which God creates to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who believe and realize the truth,
- 4 seeing that every creature of God is ideal and nothing is to be cast away, being taken with thanksgiving,
- 5 for [here it comes] it is hallowed through the word of God and pleading.
- 6 By suggesting these things to the brethren, you should be an ideal servant of the Messiah Yeshua, fostering with the words of faith and of the ideal teaching which you have fully followed.
- 7 Now profane and old womanish myths refuse, yet exercise yourself in devoutness.

Ephesians 6:17 says:

receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.

If the Father’s word was so mysterious and ungraspable by regular people like you and me, what use would it be at all, let alone as part of the full armor or panoply of YaHoVeH, which He provided for us to wear, as Paul said in **verses 11-13**:

*to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,
12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials. [So] that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and having effected all, to stand.*

Barbara has said many times, “*Wimpy saints won’t make it.*” It seems to me that if the Scriptures don’t add up in our hearts and minds, it’s not their fault – better said, it isn’t the Father’s fault – it’s ours! We can’t even FIND the panoply, let alone put it on, much less wield His agency through His declarations, which He magnifies with His name over all else, if we can’t make sense out of what He says! Do you realize that we were all once fighting a phantom, called “Satan”? That so-called “fallen angel” was – and is today – a figment of some Christian group’s imagination, and it became ours because we gave ourselves over to what had been handed down. Even the Concordant translator missed this, and he was as intellectually honest as anyone I have heard of in my experience since coming to know the Lord!

As I said in the beginning of this study tonight, Our Father Who art in Heaven, Hallowed is His name, MUST make sense and His word, His declaration, MUST add up.

This is why I become so exercised when I hear ministers of the Gospel today lie about salvation, death, heaven, and hell; and who have the temerity to profess understanding of the Scriptures, the inspired word of YaHoVeH. Much of what they say just doesn’t add up; instead, they fulfill **Matthew 15:6**:

[they] **invalidate** the word of God because of [their] **tradition**.

Luke 8:21

My mother and My brethren are these who are **hearing** the word of God and **doing** it.

John 8:31

If ever you should be **remaining** [abiding, tarrying, keeping continually, enduring] in My word, you are **truly** My disciples,
32 and you will **know** [perceive and understand] **the** truth, and the truth will be making you **free** [liberated from bondage].

Apart from perceiving, understanding – knowing the truth – we are in bondage; if we are in bondage, we are not truly the Lord’s followers – we are not able to learn from Him, and we are certainly not remaining in His word. If we are not remaining in His word, we are not doing it; and the truth is, we haven’t even heard it.

This is both stinging and encouraging. As I studied through this – I hope you’ll share it with me – I was utterly encouraged that we have been undertaking to hear, to do, and to remain in our Father’s word, and the Lord’s, and the Lord’s through Paul.