

STALLIONS! NOT OLD NAGS
The Power Zone II
Matthew 5:5-8

INTRODUCTION

- A. An elderly minister was asked what he perceived his job to be.
 - 1. “My job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”
 - 2. May very well be correct.
- B. The struggle for Christians today:
 - 1. When should we feel contentment, and when should we be discontent?
 - a. We may feel content when we should be striving for more growth.
 - b. We may feel passionate about things which really aren’t that important.
 - 2. Content with nominal Christianity – yet passionate about gathering more things.
 - 3. Content with dormant marriages – yet pursuing more power and popularity.
- C. Jesus offers wisdom regarding our struggle: (*The Message, Mt. 5:5, 6*)
 - 1. “*You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are – no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.*”
 - 2. “*You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.*”

I. STALLIONS! NOT OLD NAGS. Matthew 5:5-6

- A. Blessed Contentment (vs. 5).
 - 1. Meek – an equestrian term in Bible times.
 - a. Stallion in the corral.
 - b. Thrilled with life in the corral – even when the gate is open.
 - 2. Meekness is **NOT** weakness – strength under control.
 - a. Meekness does not consist only of a person’s outward behavior.
 - b. Meekness, the way we accept God’s dealings with us as good.
 - 3. Learning to be content with who we are and what we have.
 - a. Mt. 11:29 – I am gentle and humble...
 - b. 1 Pet. 3:4 – quality of gentle and quiet... (ref. to wives).
 - c. 2 Tim. 2:24 – kind to all ... patient when wronged.
- B. A Holy Passion (vs. 6).
 - 1. What a strange combination: contentment and passion.
 - 2. Christianity involves harnessing our passion.
 - a. Our passion is now focused on things that really matter.
 - b. We want to do what’s right in God’s eyes.
 - c. Ps. 63:1, “*O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*”
 - 3. Mary sought after the “right” thing (Mary and Martha), Lk. 10:38-42.
 - 4. Col. 3:2 – set your mind on things above...
 - a. This is a spiritual necessity.
 - b. More than “seek” ... making the godly nature center of our thoughts.
 - 5. Heb. 11:16 – desired a better country...
 - a. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah.

II. THIS COMPASSION, AN INSIDE JOB, Mt. 5:7-8.

- A. People Fall into Five “Care-Types” (vs. 7).
 1. The Care-Blocked. *“I don’t care anymore.”*
 - a. Something tragic in life – illness, death (family).
 - b. I’m not going to allow myself to be hurt anymore.
 2. The Care-Less. *“I couldn’t care less.”*
 - a. So caught up in himself and his own personal pursuits and pleasures.
 - b. Unaware of the problems around him.
 3. The Care-Seasonal. *“It’s the season for caring.”*
 - a. Holidays important – time to show we care, the joy of giving and caring.
 - b. Soon after, a return to business as “usual.”
 4. The Care-Rigid. *“Let me fix it.”*
 - a. Want everything to go well – their way.
 - b. No joy involved in this type of caring.
 5. The Care-Full. *“How can I help?”*
 - a. Treating others better than they deserve.
 - b. Phil. 2:1-4 – any encouragement in Christ...
 - c. Col. 3:12 – put on a heart of compassion...
 - d. Pharisees received a scalding rebuke, Mt. 23:23.
 - e. Looking at life with mercy eyes – the “heart of a doctor.”
- B. Developing a Pure Heart, The “Heart of a Doctor” (vs. 8).
 1. Psalm 24:3-4; 51:10-11.
 2. Possessing five important elements:
 - a. Unselfish motives that want the best for others.
 - b. Positive perspective enabling to anticipate best from others.
 - c. A clear conscience enabling us to admit when we’re wrong.
 - d. Absence of bitterness, so we can and will forgive when others are wrong.
 - e. Godliness of spirit enabling to look at life from God’s point of view.
 3. 1 Tim. 1:5 – love from a pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith.
 4. Titus 1:15 – To the pure, all things are pure;...