

## **DRAW NEAR TO GOD**

**19/11/16**

*It is amazing how some things never change. We are warned by Mark, **10:24** And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches (or power) to enter into the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. We also understand that wealth and power lead to a sense of entitlement and pride, making it very hard for the essential trait of humility and patience to be practiced (these being the only effective approach to God and his blessings). It is also not surprising that the age of entitlement (vast wealth and resources on tap for all Western nations) is taking its toll on both Christians and the nations themselves. Increasingly in our narcissistic age, we see a deluded self-belief and inflated sense of importance, made possible by technology and politically correct bullying.*

*This inflated sense of entitlement leads even the poor to lash out and blame others when they don't get everything they believe that they deserve. Look at the tantrums being thrown by adults who never got their candidate elected in the USA, look at the rage in fast food queues, in driving cars, etc, etc. Prosperity and power without the values of Christian moderation is destroying the quality and safety of Western civilization. Thus, it is not surprising, that most revival is happening amongst the developing world peoples rather than the 'wealthy' and highly opinionated westerners.*

***Our approach to God is based on simple humility and patience... a humble request rather than an egotistical demand. LUK 11:9*** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. *This is the key to all Christian success, even eternal life itself.*

***We have to admit our failings both current and future and understand that we are flawed and vulnerable. JAM 4:8*** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.** *Remember, this was written to people filled with the Holy Spirit power and the ability to make real changes. Natural entitlements are to be replaced with spiritual disciplines. If we are to love and serve each other, then our personal desires need to be placed on hold while we give God his service.*

*There are seven major emotional failings magnified by a sense of entitlement...*

*\*Anger.*

*\*Impatience.*

*\*Cynicism (lack of trust).*

*\*Resentment.*

*\*Criticism.*

*\*Ingratitude.*

*\*Disappointment.*

*Every one of these human failing, have numerous scriptural solutions offered to counter balance them. Drawing close to God is the first and most effective step out of all choices we might make.*

***This is why God tells us in advance of how we should think and act... People are going to offend us. Many of our desires are going to be left unfilled. Not everything that happens to us will be fair or right. People in the church are going to let you down. You are also going to let others down. MIC 6:8*** He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to **do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?** *Three humble steps which are very effective at securing the faith and confidence to overcome. This is the culture that brings eternal life, sustainable blessing, true happiness and contentment. It will also offer everyone else in your life the very best of your character and ministry as a servant of Christ.*

***Our character is built through what goes wrong and needs repairing... not by 'blessings'. 2COR 12:9*** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my **infirmities**, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in **infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses** for Christ's sake: for when **I am weak, then am I strong.** *This is not what the natural mind wants to hear, nor is it the life that our natural mind craves, but it is the only approach that will provide you with all your needs and true happiness. It is also the only action that will prepare you, your family and friends for what is coming on the earth. Remember, draw near to God and he will draw near to you... this will offer you more comfort and blessing than all your material blessings put together. Go and preach it and it will also be blessed as surely as drawing nigh to God. Your strength comes from God alone, not by human endeavour.*