

TRUE SUCCESS

This morning I would like to challenge some concepts of success that we may have accumulated. I want to go a bit further and say it is dangerous to give room to the world's definition of success as it leads no where. And moreover when the rains came down... it also concedes a bit of ground to Amalek ...and that is why we cannot be good Christians in the car park.

This is the danger of giving any credibility to the worlds definition.. it ignores our dependence on Christ and lets Amalek back in. And as we shall see we might compromise with Amalek but he is no mood to compromise with us.. he wants to take that Crown..!

Slide 2 The reading :

Slide 3 What is success ?

But we have just heard our Lord talking about blessed are the poor in spirit , those who mourn the meek...

Surely this cannot be right. Its strong in spirit isn't it ?

It's tough and tough minded. Rich in spirit.

Even spirited ! These are not the material Alan Sugar is looking for is it ?

We often say "what a contrast with the world view" and leave it there; perhaps as if to say the unspoken.. wouldn't it be nice if we could get there.... but today I ask what is wrong with this polar view of the world ?

So what is so silly about this contrast

What is so quaint about trusting in the Lord : Joshua did not find it strange ...he trusted the Lord. Is there some shame in this ?

In him all the fullness of the god head dwells and we are complete in him. **Colossians 2 9:10**

Success

1. To get to an understanding of success we need to realize that as Christians *we are complete in him. And what this means.*

We cannot be at that place unless we are poor in spirit.

We cannot be at that place unless we utterly depend on God.

We cannot be at that place unless we have seen the need for true deep and permanent repentance.

And that repentance which is not being sorry it is a complete turning away. Blessed are those who have reached the point where they see the need for not just feeling sorry but a complete turning away.

2. In running after things we may spend time and energy and not realize what he is waiting to give us.
3. This may translate into our Christian lives where we may also be tempted into thinking that it is something that we do or are doing.

The poor in spirit have realized this not true. Placing their trust in Christ and doing so gladly.

Charles Finney : Why those who are thus poor in spirit are blessed.?

Because the kingdom of God is within them.

“ Because they learn how blessed it is to trust Christ. They see such fullness in Christ, they do not wish any strength of their own.

Their wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption are in Christ, and they need and wish for none of their own.

Christ is all they need, and they need nothing in themselves.

They have them all in Christ, and they are willing and glad to have them in him. “

4. When really it is about what we can accomplish through Christ and his power alone.
5. We need to come to that place where we realize that if the Lord has smitten the rock one time we don't need to hit it again.

Finney continues on the poor in spirit...

1. They have no self interest.

2. They have no reputation to build up, they have no appetite that must be gratified, no passion that must be catered for, none of these to contend for or hold on to.

3. They labor not for themselves, but for Christ.

Because to be poor in spirit is to be rich in faith. Then poor in the proper sense, emptied of dependence upon themselves

6. Are we still offering God our efforts ? What Moses did was excellent he did his best. But God was waiting to do his best.

It's the meek who will inherit the earth Not the assertive then ?

No the meek ! Shock news for the Jews listening – was not their Messiah going to lead them to earthly conquest ? And here is talk of the meek !
What qualities are the meek bringing to the table :

They bring a sense of their own weakness before God.

They bring a teachable spirit: we are here to serve God not man

7. Moses tried and failed but Joshua trusted God. And what happened ?

On the third day *they were in*. (Joshua 1.10).

That is the power of a poor in spirit and the meek.

Meekness : an *Obedient walk* got Joshua over the Jordan and into the promised land.

God commanded him “

The book of the law (Joshua 1 8) DO NOT let it depart from your mouth.

Mediate on it *day and night*.

Meditate and not just read.

Day and night and not just 10 minutes a day.

8. So that you may be careful to do everything written in it

9. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Success !

Perhaps a better definition but we are not quite finished...

1. In using Moses as an example God would have us know that no degree of human excellence is any substitute for his dear son.
Moses did his best but God was waiting to give his best.

2. This morning have we been really doing our best in our own strength. If so are we worn out ? Have we become tired. God is waiting for us to realize that *we are already complete in him.*

Success :

1. In order to be complete in him we need to empty ourselves.

It is no longer I that liveth but Christ that liveth in me. (Galatians 2: 20)

No flesh shall glory in his presence

2. We need to be come poor in spirit
3. By this total dependence we begin the walk of faith
4. Not a method or a technique
5. But realizing the principle : without him we can do nothing. He is the vine we are the branches.

To conclude I shall adopt Selywn Hughes motto for his college. They started with “to be in Gods will is better than success” and after some debate they adopted a new motto” To be in Gods will is success”..