

The Story of Jesus

(Lesson 43)

Introduction:

1. As Peter concluded his second letter he gave an admonition to grow "*in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18).
2. According to the statement Jesus made in John 5:39, "searching the Scriptures" is the key to accomplishing this growth.
3. In this lesson we are studying requirements that Jesus gave for entering God's kingdom.

Discussion:

- I. WE MUST BE "*POOR IN SPIRIT*" (Matthew 5:3)
 - A. Additional passages help us understand the Lord's requirement (Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2).
 - B. Requests like those David made in Psalm 19:12-14; 139:23-24 are indications that a person is poor in spirit.
 - C. The publican in the Lord's parable in Luke 18:9-14 was poor in spirit while the Pharisee was not.
- II. WE MUST "*EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES*" (Matthew 5:19-20)
 - A. The scribes and Pharisees disobeyed certain commands of God, and they taught others to do the same.
 - B. To enter the kingdom of heaven we must not follow the example of these people.
- III. WE MUST DO THE FATHER'S WILL (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - A. At the judgment many will be lost who will claim to have done great things in the Lord's name.
 - B. Jesus requires us to do His Father's will.
- IV. WE MUST "*BE CONVERTED AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN*" (Matthew 18:1-4)
 - A. The disciples wanted to know who was the greatest in the kingdom.
 - B. Before Jesus answered their question in vs.4 He told them how to enter the kingdom in vs.3.
- V. WE MUST ELIMINATE THINGS THAT WILL CAUSE US TO STUMBLE (Mark 9:43-48)
 - A. Jesus illustrated His point by referring to important parts of the body that we would not want to lose, including a hand, a foot, and an eye.
 - B. Anything that will cause us to stumble must be eliminated, even something as special as a hand, a foot, or an eye.
- VI. WE MUST "*BE BORN AGAIN,*" THAT IS, "*BE BORN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT*" (John 3:3-5)