

CONSECRATED

— *in* —

THE CHAOS

a journey through the beatitudes

CASSIDY CAMPBELL

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF KINGDOM LIVING
PERSONAL STUDY BASED ON THE BOOK BY CASSIDY CAMPBELL
WRITTEN BY MICKEY ELLIS

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A Word to Participants

*Remember what Christ taught, and let His words enrich your lives
and make you wise . . . Colossians 3:16*

There are over 31,000 verses in the Bible, each one of them a nugget in a vast gold mine of the perfect and holy word of God. It is God's gift to a fallen world that tells of His redemptive love and plan for the ones He created. It is the word of the Lord that remains forever.

The process of gold mining can be broken down into these four basic steps:

1. Prospecting – searching for gold deposits within rock, especially by means of experimental drilling and excavation.
2. Mining – searching through rock for specific data and patterns that identify gold.
3. Extracting – using various methods to remove or separate gold deposits from sedimentary rock.
4. Refining – freeing the gold from impurities by fire and then perfecting it through polishing.

These are the steps this study will use to discover the life-changing *gold* found in the opening words of arguably Jesus' most famous discourse, the Sermon on the Mount, and the personal insight into the lessons of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), as told by Cassidy Campbell in his book entitled, *Consecrated by the Chaos*. Each session is broken out as follows:

1. Prospecting for Gold

This first section is where the search begins and is an introduction to the **main idea of the lesson**. It asks the big questions designed to get people thinking and to get the conversation going.

2. Mining for Gold

This section searches further and begins to break down data and discover patterns by making it personal. It **explores real-life challenges and the lessons learned from those challenges**.

3. Extracting the Gold

This section gives further insight into the lessons Jesus desires His followers to understand and practice. **It uses biblical examples and quotes from the book to discover the true and pure meaning of Jesus' words**.

4. Refining the Gold

This final section addresses the hardest part of any lesson, which is to actually learn it by living it. It addresses the personal journey of those who follow Jesus by **challenging each one to a life of humbleness before God as He brings each one to perfection**.

Consecrated in the Chaos - Introduction

Society is so disconcerted. There's a huge gulf between the upper-class aristocrats perched in their fancy offices making all the rules, while the lower-class laborers keep getting poorer and poorer, some just giving up. Those in the middle class, somewhere in between, continually try to climb the steep ladder to an easier life without slipping and falling into a hopeless pool of exhaustion and dysfunction. Racism is prevalent, women are treated as second-class citizens, and intolerance continues to increase. It is a time of cancel culture that seems to be rapidly growing. Politicians are of little help as they argue amongst themselves and all for the good of the people, so they say. High-profile religious leaders aren't much better, as they debate who is right and who is wrong, depending and focusing more and more on rules rather than on the God who saves.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Yet this is a historical description of the reality Israel faced early in the first century AD. In God's perfect wisdom, it was at this time He sent the Messiah to His chosen people who were surely growing weary and feeling hopeless. With the wisdom and authority given Him by His Father in Heaven, Jesus came and gave encouragement, hope, and assurance of a much better future to those who would listen. Today, as a society, we find ourselves experiencing the same frustrations the Israelites did, though perhaps with a little more sophistication, yet certainly with no less anxiety, discouragement, and even that same hopeless feeling.

During His short time of ministry on this earth, Jesus gave five discourses that showed the Father's love and encouraged the first century Israelites, as well as Christians today, living in a troubled and challenging world. The first discourse was the Sermon on the Mount, as found in Matthew 5-7, and by the Master Teacher's own design, it begins with the *beatitudes*, eight blessings named from the initial word of each one, *beati* in the Latin Vulgate Bible, which translates to "happy" or "blessed." **What the world looks upon as curses, Jesus shows to be blessing, reward, and joy in the promise of heaven.**

This eight-week study follows Cassidy Campbell's book, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, a journey through each of the beatitudes. Through his own experiences, the testimonies of others, and God's incredible gifts of grace and faith, Cassidy shows us that the beatitudes make up the paths of our own journey, abundantly supplied with trust, loving sacrifice, and spiritual growth where brokenness is transformed into hearts of mercy, peace, and joy.

So, let the journey begin . . .

- Mickey Ellis

CONSECRATED IN THE CHAOS

Session 1: Spiritual Poverty

“I know through my discovery in the Lord that there was a history between Jesus and the Father from the beginning of creation that the Father wanted us to see. The words Jesus was about to speak that day were not a new revelation or a new idea. It was not something He ran over in His mind a few times and thought He might throw out there to see what the response was going to be. No! It was purposed revelation, revealing the government of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Cassidy Campbell, Consecrated in the Chaos, page 9

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs will be the kingdom of God.”
Matthew 5:3

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD

The Main Idea – The Big Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus began His sermon with the beatitudes?
2. In your opinion, what does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? What does it look like?
3. As Cassidy pointed out, the Message paraphrased this verse as “Blessed are you when you are at the end of your rope.” How would you paraphrase it?

MINING FOR GOLD

Making it personal – real life challenges – what do we learn?

4. Describe the best time of your life, when everything was going well, life was easy, and you were completely satisfied. What was it like? How did you feel?
5. Think of a time that was extremely difficult for you, a time when there seemed to be no answers, no hope. If you are willing, would you briefly share the circumstances of that situation with the group?

6. What do we learn about ourselves when we face these seemingly unbearable difficulties?
7. What do we learn about God?

EXTRACTING THE GOLD

Discovering the True & Pure Meaning of Jesus' Words

8. What exactly is the Kingdom of Heaven and how does it differ from earthly kingdoms?
9. Is the Kingdom of Heaven a future kingdom or is it a kingdom present here on earth now? Explain your answer.
10. What does it mean to voluntarily surrender to God?
11. Cassidy also spoke of voluntary weakness. What is voluntary weakness and how does it differ from voluntary surrender?

“The very essence of our life in God is grounded in our voluntary surrender to Him.”

Cassidy Campbell, Consecrated in the Chaos, page 12

12. Is there a relationship between voluntary surrender and voluntary weakness? Why are both important?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Drawing from other examples in Scripture – what do we learn?

Mary of Bethany embodies such a beautiful picture of what it is to be “poor in spirit.” Read each of the following Scripture passages and answer the questions that follow:

Jesus Visits the Home of Lazarus, Mary & Martha – Luke 10:38-42 NIV

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has

left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”

The Death of Lazarus - John 11:1-3, 17-45 NIV

“Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.’

When Jesus heard that, He said, ‘This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ . . .

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, ‘The Teacher has come and is calling for you.’ As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, ‘She is going to the tomb to weep there.’ Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.’

Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to Him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, ‘See how He loved him!’ And some of them said, ‘Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, ‘Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but

because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.’ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.”

The Anointing at Bethany – John 12:1-3 NIV

“Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”

Note: It is likely Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-3 are different accounts of Martha and Mary with Jesus.

Significance of the oil (John 12:1-3): Some scholars have determined the oil represented the presence of God, which Mary was acknowledging in Jesus. Following Pentecost, it is taken to be the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. It's the oil that keeps the fire burning. It's mentioned in the parable of the ten virgins that the oil is to be purchased (Matthew 25:9), which means a price is to be paid to obtain the oil. To have a continual presence of God in our lives, we are to pay a price, by spending time at the feet of Jesus. Only a substantial presence of God in our life can keep the fire burning through the dark nights. Such a person who has the fire burning in him at the time of the Bride Groom's return, will go in with Him.

In this light, the five of the ten virgins who did not enter the kingdom ran low on the Spirit (i.e., the metaphorical "oil" in their lamps), which is the power through which they receive spiritual knowledge and wisdom from God. Paul makes this function of the Holy Spirit clear in 1 Corinthians chapter 2. The meaning of the parable of the ten virgins teaches us that, shortly before Christ's return, there will be Christians who are so slack in their spiritual duties that they will not have enough of God's Spirit (character) to endure to the end (Matthew 24:13). All true Christians should make sure they have the faith and are diligent enough in their spiritual lives not to be caught unprepared (Matthew 24:45-51). We must all strive to be wise, and not foolish.

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.” 1 Samuel 16:13

- ❖ Martha and Mary are two sisters with very different focuses. Based on these three stories, can you identify the subtle and not-so-subtle differences in their demeanors that indicate where their priorities lie?
- ❖ What do these differences indicate about where their hearts lay?
- ❖ What is the key (for lack of a better word) to becoming more like Mary and less like Martha?
- ❖ Why do you think Jesus wept?

REFINING THE GOLD

Personal Journey – the Challenges and the Connection to God

13. After reading this first chapter of **Consecrated in the Chaos**, has your understanding of living a life of wholeheartedness changed? If so, how?
14. How does living a life of wholeheartedness relate to experiencing the abundant life Jesus talked about in John 10:10 – “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

“Jesus painted such a beautiful picture throughout the scriptures explaining what it means to live wholeheartedly. I have come to realize that without a vision to live wholeheartedly, I am not living at all.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 13

How would you define “abundant life”? How do you think Jesus defines “abundant life”?

15. How will you balance living in an earthly kingdom and the Kingdom of God at the same time?

This Week: Based on this week’s reading, discussion, and meditation, craft a prayer to the Lord of surrender, weakness, and repentance. Are you ready for Him to take you to the end of your rope where there is no one there but Him? Ask Him to let His love consume you so that you may live and walk with a poor spirit, totally reliant and dependent on Jesus. If you’re not there yet but want to be, ask Him to get you there. Trust the Lord to take you to the end of yourself where all you have, all you need, is Jesus.

