

Biblical Perspectives: An Organization on a Hill

by Carrie Cavanaugh

As Christians, everything we do matters because the world is watching. This is a great responsibility, but also a great opportunity. The way you run your ministry is witness to the world of who Christ is and what He values, for “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden” Matthew 5:14. We want to capture the attention of the rest of the world with something so beautiful and good that they want the gospel for themselves.

Let us explore some of what it means to be light to the world. What is it that they should see in us? Matthew 5:14 follows directly after the Beatitudes and I believe it is because they are the very attitudes that God desires of His people.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” We are to see ourselves as we are, with nothing to offer God. We strive to do our ministry work, but know that it is as filthy rags to our God. We come as beggars to Christ, asking him not only to make us righteous, but also to make our work fruitful. For what ministry could succeed merely by the work of men without the work of the Holy Spirit?! Let the world see where our confidence lies.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” As Christians, we are to be broken hearted over our sin and the fallen

nature of this world. We should care about the suffering of our “neighbor” rather than ignoring. As the world looks to our city on a hill, let them see tender hearted organizations who use their resources to meet the needs of others.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” What a witness it would be for leaders of a Christian

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organization to break the conventional mold of corporate leadership by operating with a humble attitude. What if we took more time to listen to others rather than volunteering our opinions. What if we lowered our pay before resorting to a layoff. What if we treated our subordinates with the curtsies of patience.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” The goals of the secular

business world are not to be our goals. Let’s show them that we will operate ethically even if it is to our disadvantage.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” In this cutthroat economy, Christian organizations may find that those they work with cannot keep the promises they have made. As challenging as this loss may be to your organization, I hope you will see it as an opportunity to extend mercy just as God has shown mercy to us.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” This is a challenge for us to continually examine our motives. Do we have the best interest of others in mind as we work with them? Are we being forthcoming to our donors? Are we being careful not to compromise our values in order to get ahead? Are we keeping our promises to others? Are we holding our staff accountable for the standards we have established?

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” Peace within your organization requires that you listen to your employees and act to establish justice. But I believe Christian organizations are called to more than that as they should seek to keep peace with all they interact with, be it the US government, foreign governments, or secular companies.

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If a mistake is made, or a sin carried out, acknowledge it and make it right. to outsiders.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Seeking to carry out God’s plans in a secular world will surely bring about attack from our enemies. In those instances where you face opposition, be encouraged by the confirmation that you are living as Christ did. And as Christ knew that His work was well worth the suffering He faced, let us also remember that we don’t labor in vain.

We have examined the attitudes that we are to have as Christians, but let us not forget the promises that go with them: “theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” “they will be comforted,” “they will inherit the earth,” “they will be filled,” “they will be shown mercy,” “they will see God,” “they will be called sons of God,” “theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” “great is your reward in heaven.” How blessed we are in Christ! As we are a city on a hill, may we likewise be a blessing to others. And surely this kind of community will be attractive