

5 February 2017 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1–12; Matthew 5:13–20.

INTRO: *The Arena of Healing, Part 2* – Matthew 5:5-6, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Part 1: Humility (poor in spirit) - Emotional honesty (those who mourn).



I. TEACHABLE.

Matthew 5:5, “Blessed are the gentle (*meek*), for they shall inherit the earth.”

Lifekeys: *“I am prepared to receive the assistance of others. I will no longer hide myself from accountability nor will I shield myself from loving and truthful reflection. With a gentle spirit I am willing to hear your insights and without judging you, I am willing to share mine with you.”*

Parable of the Sower: 1. Can’t understand it; don’t want to. 2. Don’t really want to change. 3. Outside pressures and distractions. 4. Good.

Illus. After I finished Uni I had been reading the Bible for two years. I then found others who interpreted it differently most challenging.

Cf. **My dad** said he spent the first half of his marriage to mum trying to change her. The second half he spent trying to change himself.

Stages of Community Development: 1. Pseudo-community. 2. Chaos. 3. Emptiness. 4. Community.

Luke 2:46, “After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, **listening to them and asking them questions.**” Cf. Luke 2:52.

John 5:19, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.**”

Reflect:

1. How teachable am I? Who is speaking into my life right now?
2. How hungry am I to become the man/woman God sees me to be? What can I do to make that more of a reality in the world?