

## Be Real

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, 25 April 2021)

The Lord Jesus is gentle with just about everyone...

### Matthew 12:11-21

<sup>11</sup> Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out? <sup>12</sup> Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” <sup>13</sup> Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other. <sup>14</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

### Behold, My Servant

<sup>15</sup> But when Jesus knew *it*, He withdrew from there. And great <sup>[c]</sup>multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. <sup>16</sup> Yet He warned them not to make Him known, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

<sup>18</sup> “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen,  
My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!  
I will put My Spirit upon Him,  
And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.

<sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel nor cry out,  
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.

<sup>20</sup> A bruised reed He will not break,  
And smoking flax He will not quench,

Till He sends forth justice to victory;  
21 And in His name Gentiles will trust.”

One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Matthew 12:18-21...  
To me this passage highlights how the Lord Jesus will not step on  
you when you are down...

When we are broken, He is there to pick us up and put our lives  
back together again...

He is tender with us...

What I see in the Scripture is that there are three main groups with  
whom the Lord Jesus is rough:

- 1) Demonic forces and those who have let themselves be  
influenced by demonic forces...

## **Revelation 19:11-21**

<sup>11</sup> Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He  
who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness  
He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and  
on His head *were* many crowns. He <sup>[e]</sup>had a name written that no  
one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in  
blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies  
in heaven, clothed in <sup>[f]</sup>fine linen, white and clean, followed Him  
on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a <sup>[g]</sup>sharp sword,  
that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule  
them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the  
fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe  
and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND  
LORD OF LORDS.

## The Beast and His Armies Defeated

<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the <sup>[h]</sup>supper of the great God, <sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, <sup>[i]</sup>free and slave, both small and great.”

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

We can agree with the devil in our lives in very subtle ways... Peter received one of the greatest spiritual revelations in one moment, and soon thereafter, he let himself be influenced by the devil...

### **Matthew 16:21-23**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

<sup>14</sup> So they said, “Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not <sup>[g]</sup>prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth <sup>[h]</sup>will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

<sup>20</sup> Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

<sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, <sup>[i]</sup>“Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

<sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are <sup>[j]</sup>an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

A key to avoiding the devil’s influence is humility...

An important part of humility is always recognizing that God knows better than we do...

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,  
Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

2)The Lord Jesus is generally rough with proud people in general...

### **1 Peter 5:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

One manifestation of pride is trying to take care of things on our own...

When we try to take care of things on our own, we are indicating that we don't need the Lord Jesus to help us...

In addition to being prideful, such an independent attitude can also wear us out because we begin to carry burdens that are not ours to bear...

### **Matthew 11:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I

am <sup>[f]</sup>gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

3) The third group of people that the Lord Jesus is rough with is hypocrites...

That brings me to what inspired today’s message...

The importance of us being real...

## **Matthew 16:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. <sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the <sup>[c]</sup>leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”

<sup>7</sup> And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “*It is* because we have taken no bread.”

<sup>8</sup> But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you <sup>[d]</sup>have brought no bread? <sup>9</sup> Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? <sup>10</sup> Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? <sup>11</sup> How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—*but* to beware of the <sup>[e]</sup>leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” <sup>12</sup> Then they understood that He did not tell *them* to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the <sup>[f]</sup>doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

We learn in a parallel passage that the doctrine or teaching of the religious leaders among the Jews when the Lord Jesus walked the earth was hypocrisy...

## **Luke 12:1**

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*, “Beware of the <sup>[a]</sup>leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy can essentially be defined as saying one thing and doing another...

**Matthew 23** explains so many facets of hypocrisy...

It is worth trying to have a more in-depth look at this chapter in order to learn how to be real...

### **Matthew 23:1-39**

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup> Therefore whatever they tell you <sup>[a]</sup>to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. <sup>4</sup> For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. <sup>5</sup> But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. <sup>6</sup> They love the <sup>[b]</sup>best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup> greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ <sup>8</sup> But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your <sup>[c]</sup>Teacher, <sup>[d]</sup>the Christ, and you are all brethren. <sup>9</sup> Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> And whoever exalts himself will be <sup>[e]</sup>humbled, and he who humbles himself will be <sup>[f]</sup>exalted.

<sup>13</sup> “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. <sup>14</sup> <sup>[g]</sup>Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

<sup>15</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of <sup>[h]</sup>hell as yourselves.

<sup>16</sup> “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged *to perform it*.’ <sup>17</sup> Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that <sup>[i]</sup>sanctifies the gold? <sup>18</sup> And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged *to perform it*.’ <sup>19</sup> Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? <sup>20</sup> Therefore he who <sup>[j]</sup>swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. <sup>21</sup> He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who <sup>[k]</sup>dwells in it. <sup>22</sup> And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. <sup>24</sup> Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion



and <sup>[l]</sup>self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and <sup>[m]</sup>adorn the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup> and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’

<sup>31</sup> “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt*. <sup>33</sup> Serpents, brood<sup>[n]</sup> of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? <sup>34</sup> Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, <sup>35</sup> that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. <sup>36</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

### Jesus Laments over Jerusalem

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See! Your

house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”

\*\*\*One important way to avoid hypocrisy is to ask yourself:

Am I the same person on Monday – Saturday that I am in church on Sunday?

If I am not the same person, what do I do about that?

\*\*\*\*The key is to be honest about where we are spiritually so that we can repent and ask God to change us when we realize that we are not where we should be...

### **John 8:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

An important part of this process is to be continually in the Word of God, asking God to use His Word to bring about positive change in our lives...

### **James 1:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> Therefore lay aside all filthiness and <sup>[d]</sup>overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of

man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

My daughter Destiny told me the other day that she is repenting every night before she goes to sleep...

That is a wonderful way to be...

Trying to stay right with the Lord Jesus every day...

\*\*\*When an emergency arises, what do I do with my faith?

Many of you know that I was in the ER last Saturday with chest pains...

It was not an easy time, but I was very blessed my attitude...

I felt that I had confirmation that I have gone up a spiritual level or two...

Even though I was alone for most of the time, I maintained a positive attitude...

I did not have a Bible with me, and my phone was low on battery, but the Lord Jesus turned these negative circumstances into something good for me...

### **Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

I learned that I have in fact hidden a lot of God's Word in my heart...

That when things get rough, I can be strengthened by leaning on the treasure from His Word that has been stored up inside of me

### **Psalm 119:11**

Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.

I may not know all of the chapter and verse citations, but I know at least in general what many passages say...

And I can draw strength from those passages...

For example, in the midst of sickness. I know that

### **1 Peter 2:24**

<sup>24</sup> who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose <sup>[g]</sup>stripes you were healed.

I know that there is nothing that cannot be healed when pray to the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus...

### **Matthew 8:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore *our* sicknesses.”

During my ER visit and my battle with chest pain last weekend, I felt like I was truly walking in

## Philippians 4:8

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

I spent a lot of time praising the Lord Jesus for my blessings, including all the beauty and other good things I have already enjoyed in my life...

For you see following the Lord Jesus is not just about receiving new blessings all the time; it's also about appreciating what you have already received...

I heard a saying that many people live like they are never going to die and they die like they never lived...

I praise the Lord Jesus that He has taken me beyond that...

I live with the hope of heaven, recognizing that my earthly life will end some day...

And when I die, I know that I will appreciate all of the blessings that I got to experience here on earth because I am already grateful for them, even the small ones, while I am still here...

\*\*\*So with this testimony, I go back to the idea of being real...