

# Living on the Upbeat: Learning to live in tune with God

## "Mastering Chopsticks: Teachability"

St. Andrew's Anglican Church \* June 19, 2005 \* David Brannen  
Matthew 5:5 \* Psalm 1 \* Psalm 37

**Eight Beatitudes - Attitudes God desires → God rewards**  
(beatitude - from the Latin for "blessed")

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."  
-- Matthew 5:5

Meekness ≠ WEAKNESS

Meekness = STRENGTH under CONTROL

### Four habits of teachability:

#### 1. Consider the character of your COUNSELORS.

**Psalm 1:1** - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

**Genesis 3:1, 4-5** - Now the serpent ... said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**Ephesians 6:12** (NCV) - Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.

**Matthew 7:16-17** -<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?<sup>17</sup> Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

"...my kids were raised, largely alone, by their mother, Carolyn...The idea just didn't dawn on me that anyone would want to be anywhere but at work." - Retired GE CEO Jack Welch, Businessweek, April 4, 2005

"At dinner parties Welch tells friends that he married his first wife to please his mother, his second wife to please GE, and he'll marry his third to please himself." - The Times of London, Oct. 10, 2002

#### 2. Count on the GOODNESS of God.

**Genesis 3:6** - When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

**Psalm 1:2-3** -<sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

#### Blessings from counting on God's goodness...

- **PRODUCTIVITY** "yields its fruit in season"
- **PERSEVERANCE** "whose leaf does not wither"
- **SUCCESS** "Whatever he does prospers"

#### 3. Commit to INTIMATE DEPENDENCE on God as a way of life.

**Psalm 1:6a** - the LORD watches over the way of the righteous...

**Isaiah 30:21** - Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

**Galatians 5:22-23, 25** (KJV) ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith,<sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance (self-control)...<sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

#### 4. Content yourself with GOD'S TIMING.

**Psalm 1:4-5** -<sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**Psalm 37:10-11** - A little while, and the wicked will be no more... But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

**Matthew 5:5** - "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

**Revelation 21:1** - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...