



"Bienaventurado – The Poor In Spirit" | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | September 8, 2019

Mark 4:23-5:11

23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. **24** So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. **25** And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^a of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Key Points and Discussion from Tim's Sermon:

- In his homily for this week, Tim points out two questions we can ask about the text.
 - *What is blessing?*
 - *Who is blessed?*
- One way to interpret Blessing is "O Happy You!"
 - What seems awkward about that?
 - What seems appropriate?
 - Can it be both? How so?
- Tim reminds us that much if not all of Jesus' teaching focuses on the Kingdom of Heaven, while presenting a definition of the Kingdom of Heaven as follows: "The range of God's effective will."
 - How does that definition influence your understanding of the passage?
 - How does "the range of God's effective will" (His Kingdom) appear to interact with the other kingdoms we observe and experience in our lives, in this world?
 - Where is the effective will of God experienced
- Consider the crowds in attendance at Jesus' sermon, and those who followed/sought him in general.
 - Where is the "Effective Will of God" experienced most acutely, directly, or intimately? How so?
- While many of the beatitudes tie their happiness to a future blessing that "shall" take place, the first beatitude states that the Kingdom of Heaven already belongs to the Poor In Spirit.
 - Have you seen this in your own life? Or those close to you? How so?
 - If we are resisting an experience of spiritual poverty, then according to this text, what else are we resisting?
- Tim pointed out a second definition of Blessed: Bienaventurado: the good adventure.
 - In what sense is embracing our spiritual poverty an opportunity for adventure?
 - How might this apply to you as you approach the coming week, or the current season of your life?
- At one point, Tim stated that "if all you have in this world is from this world, then at some point you will have nothing."
 - How does that influence your understanding of the text?
 - How does that statement impact you?