

09.28.25: Matt 5:3-6

The Character of a Kingdom Citizen, Part 1 – Spiritual Dependency

Intro:

- Kingdom Citizens
- Discipleship
- Soil of the OT
- Beatitudes – some of the most familiar texts because of beauty and simplicity
 - Are profoundly simple and simply profound
 - Beatitudes from the Latin *beatus* meaning blessed or happy
 - “The more we explore their implications, the more seems to remain unexplored. Their wealth is inexhaustible. We cannot plumb their depths. Truly, ‘We are near heaven here.’” Stott quoting Bruce
 - False view that psychologizes the beatitudes as keys to emotional attitudes for the happy life. Stott
 - The fact that Jesus began the SM with such pronouncements of blessing on His disciples before placing demands on them is significant. This order suggests that the righteousness described in the sermon is a result of divine blessing rather than a requirement for divine blessing. Quarles SM
 - Not a formula or recipe, but an overall description

Main Idea:

The first four beatitudes reveal a picture of and the rewards for our total spiritual dependency.

Blessed

- *Makarios* in Gk
- No good translation into English or German
- “Happy” is misleading because happiness is often based on circumstances and “Jesus was not referring to an emotion or feeling that is based on present circumstances.” Quarles SM
- It is seriously misleading to render *makarios* 'happy'. For happiness is a subjective state, whereas Jesus is making an objective judgment about these people. He is declaring not what they may feel like (happy'), but what God thinks of them and what on that account they are: they are 'blessed'. Stott

09.28.25: Matt 5:3-6

The Character of a Kingdom Citizen, Part 1 – Spiritual Dependency

- The adjective “blessed” identifies a “privileged recipient of divine favor.” Quarles EBTC from BDAG
- Believers whose lives are difficult can experience the joy that results from divine blessing.” Quarles SM
- The deep inner joy of those who have long awaited the salvation promised by God and who now begin to experience its fulfillment.” Hagner quoted by Quarles
- This joy results from divine blessing since the verbs in verses 4,6,7, and possibly 9 are "divine passives."20 "They will be comfort-ed," "they will be filled," "they will be shown mercy," and perhaps "they will be called" mean that God will comfort Jesus' followers, fill them, show mercy to them, and call them His sons. Quarles SM
- What does it look like to be blessed? The second half of each verse tells us
 - Possessing the kingdom of heaven
 - Being comforted
 - Inheriting the earth
 - Being filled/satisfied
- Are the blessings present or future? Stott claims the only possible answer is both
- “The gloriously comprehensive blessing of God’s rule, tasted now and consummated later.” Stott

Transition/Coordinating Thought:

The emphasis on the blessed by word order placement – thus what we gain from being who we are.

The first is

1) We gain a KING out of our spiritual BANKRUPTCY

EXPLANATION:

Poor in spirit

- Poor (economically) vs poor in spirit – Luke does not include the ‘in spirit’ but Matthew’s addition helps provide clarity for even in the OT poor were those who were dependent upon and could trust only in God
- “In the Old Testament, poverty was often a spiritual category and not merely an economic one. The poor could not provide for themselves and

09.28.25: Matt 5:3-6

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often had a sense of dependency on God that resulted in both remarkable humility and faith. The “poor” are often described as those who have a humble dependence on God, experience his deliverance, and enjoy his undeserved favor (Pss 10:17; 34:6; 86:1–5; Prov 3:34; Isa 41:17–18; 57:15; 66:1–2).” Quarles EBTC

- Is 61:1 – good news to the poor
- Someone who is keenly aware that he is spiritually destitute and must rely entirely on the grace of God for salvation.” Quarles SM
- Robert Guelich quoted by Quarles – those who stand “without pretense before God, stripped of all self-sufficiency, self-security, and self-righteousness.”
- “To be poor in spirit is not to lack courage but to acknowledge spiritual bankruptcy. It confesses one’s unworthiness before God and utter dependence upon him.” Carson, EBC
- Spiritual paupers who recognize their spiritual bankruptcy – Quarles SM

Theirs is the kingdom of heavens

- ...he graciously reigns over them as king now and graciously promises them a part in his future kingdom
- Present tense before moving to future tense below

ILLUSTRATION:

- Mephibosheth – Jonathan’s son (Saul’s grandson) who was lame and taken into King David’s court and ate at the king’s table – 2 Sam 4 and 9

2) We gain COMFORT out of our spiritual GRIEF

EXPLANATION:

Those who mourn

- Intense sorrow
- Also Is 61 like the first beatitude vs 1 – to heal the brokenhearted then vs 2 to comfort all who mourn
- Mourning in Is 61 is expression of sorrow over Israel’s exile Quarles SM
- Expression of grief, sorrow – over sin and not simply over death
- Ps 119:136 – tears because people do not follow your instruction

09.28.25: Matt 5:3-6

The Character of a Kingdom Citizen, Part 1 – Spiritual Dependency

- Ps 40:12
- Ps 51:16-17
- Stott – happy are the unhappy
- What kind of sorrow brings the joy of God's blessing? Stott – those who mourn not the loss of a loved one but the loss of their innocence, their righteousness, their self-respect ... the sorrow of repentance
- "It is one thing to be spiritually poor and acknowledge it; it is another to grieve and mourn over it." Stott
- Jesus wept over the sins of others and the city of Jerusalem

Will be comforted

- Future
- He was sent to bind up the brokenhearted

ILLUSTRATION:

- Jesus weeping at Lazarus Jn 11:33-35
- 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and ^cwas troubled,
- 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They ^{*}said to Him, "Lord, come and see."
- 35 Jesus wept.

- Jesus weeping over Jerusalem Luke 19:41-2

⁴¹ As he approached and saw the city, he wept for it, ⁴² saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes."

3) We gain an *INHERITANCE* out of our spiritual *BROKENNESS*

EXPLANATION:

Humble

- PS 37:11
- Complete dependence and total submission – Quarles SM
- TDNT – one who feels that he is a servant in relationship to God and who subjects himself to Him quietly and without resistance"

09.28.25: Matt 5:3-6

The Character of a Kingdom Citizen, Part 1 – Spiritual Dependency

- Also Is 61
- Exercising Self-control
- Not weakness or effeminate – rather strength under control
- A true estimate of ourselves in which we are weak and mourning will result in a gentle and humble attitude toward others – Lloyd Jones
- Lloyd Jones notes that it is relatively easy for us to critique ourselves in this regard, but more difficult to allow others to say the same things about us.
- Amazed that God would think of us and treat us as he does – Lloyd Jones

Will inherit the earth

- Word normally translated as land, but the earth is referenced throughout Matt including mult times in the SM
- Quarles SM - a recreated world, a world replete with material and physical as well as spiritual blessings ??
- We would expect the opposite – the humble do not get ahead on earth!
- Self-renunciation is the way to world dominion – Rudolph Stier as quotes by Stott

ILLUSTRATION:

- Jesus – Phil 2:6-

⁶ who, existing in the form of God,
did not consider equality with God
as something to be exploited.

⁷ Instead he emptied himself
by assuming the form of a servant,
taking on the likeness of humanity.

And when he had come as a man,

⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death—
even to death on a cross.

⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him
and gave him the name

09.28.25: Matt 5:3-6

The Character of a Kingdom Citizen, Part 1 – Spiritual Dependency

that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee will bow—
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth—
¹¹ and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

4) We gain *RIGHTEOUSNESS* out of our spiritual *DESPERATION*

EXPLANATION:

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

- Longing and not just for anything but for the deepest of needs
- Sanctification and personal righteousness – 6:1 not as something someone has but as something a disciples does or practices
- Again Is 61:3 – righteous trees

They will be filled

- Passive voice – clearly not something achieved on own
- Quarles SM - The incredible standard /radical demands of righteousness
Jesus is calling his disciples to
 - To keep the least of the commandments – 5:19
 - Surpasses the scribes and pharisees – 5:20
 - Even perfection – 5:48

Conclusion:

- ILLUSTRATION: picture of our state before God
- Our assumption that this is for those who belong to him - This is the one and only description of our continued state in him
- But before we can even consider the blessing of this state in him we must remember that ...
- ... This is the one and only way we come to him