

The Beatitudes

01 - POOR IN SPIRIT: EMPTY HANDS BEFORE THE KING

Name: _____ Date: _____ Passage: Matthew 5:3

CORE LESSON PRINCIPLE: Kingdom life begins when we abandon spiritual self-sufficiency. Jesus welcomes those who come to Him with empty hands, because the Kingdom of heaven is received as a gift, not earned by merit.

I. THE ARRIVAL OF THE KING (*Matthew 4:17, 23–25; 5:1–2*)

The Sermon on the Mount is not an 8-step self-improvement _____; it is fundamentally an announcement of _____.

1. Grace vs. Performance: How does seeing Jesus as the initiating King change how you approach His teaching? What 'spiritual ladder' or moral comparison do you most often rely on to feel worthy before God?

My Discovery & Reflections:

II. SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY & LEVERAGE (*Matthew 5:3 — Ptōchos*)

Ptōchos describes severe spiritual _____, not modest want. A 'spiritual résumé' obligates God to _____.

2. Ptōchos & The Spiritual Résumé: What is the difference between feeling insecure or self-hating and being truly 'poor in spirit'? What spiritual achievement or reputation do you need to stop holding up as leverage before God?

My Discovery & Reflections:

III. GOD'S PATTERN OF RECEPTIVITY (*Isaiah 57:15; 61:1–3; Psalm 51:17*)

The high and exalted God dwells with the contrite to _____ their hearts. The Messiah brings good news to the _____.

3. Heart Contrition: Why does God turn toward brokenness rather than self-reliance? Where in your life are you currently exhausted from trying to stay strong and impressive in your own power?

My Discovery & Reflections:

IV. RECEIVING VS. SEIZING THE KINGDOM (*Matthew 5:3; Genesis 11–12*)

LISTENING AID: Human kingdoms are _____ through force, but God's kingdom is _____ as a gift. Empty hands are the permanent posture of discipleship.

4. Empty Hands Posture: What does it look like for you to approach Jesus with 'empty hands' in your daily choices this week? What area of control are you being invited to yield to Him right now?

My Discovery & Reflections:

PERSONAL KINGDOM COMMITMENT

My Concrete Action Step: What specific self-reliant attitude or habit will you surrender to Christ this week?

I will:

PRAYER: "King Jesus, I end my spiritual bargaining today. I come to You with empty hands, acknowledging that I have no leverage to offer. Thank You that Your kingdom is given freely by grace. Fill my empty hands with Your righteousness and peace. Amen."