

The Poor In Spirit

February 19, 2017

I. Introduction: The Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

- The Kingdom of Heaven is not a territory but a transformation.

Matthew 5:1-2 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

II. The Poor in Spirit

A. The Blessed

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. The blessed know joy even when they don't feel happy.
2. The blessed know they can live right side up when the world is upside down.
 - The blessed view life through the lens of scripture with their focus on eternity.
 - If you live like you are not blessed, then you won't be!

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

3. The blessed will be willing to change their thinking.

B. The Poor in Spirit

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. The Poor In Spirit recognize the limits of self.

Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

2. The Poor In Spirit find their help in God.

Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

3. The Poor In Spirit do the right things for the right reasons

Matthew 6:1 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

- God rewards genuine righteousness.

III. Five Practices of the Poor In Spirit

Matthew 6:2-4 So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

1. Genuine Generosity

Matthew 6:5-6 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

2. *Personal Prayer*

Matthew 6:7-8 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

3. *Purposeful Prayer*

Matthew 6:9-13 This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

4. *Forward Forgiveness*

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

5. *Secret Service*

Matthew 6:16-18 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- We are blessed when we live our lives for something bigger than ourselves.