

REVIEW:

- What is a paradox?
- The Jewish culture was a proud, “*stiff necked*” culture.
- They had created a culture kind of like the prosperity gospel.
- If good things happen, then I have been good; if bad things happen, then I have been bad.
- The Jews were waiting for the Messiah to take them to the place of prominence in the world because they were God’s chosen people.

Matthew 5:1–12 (NASB2020) *¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ²And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

The word “blessed”:

- The word beatitude comes from the Latin word “*beatus*” (*bee-ā-toos*) which means “*blessed, happy or prosperous.*”
- Each statement Jesus makes in the beatitudes starts with a blessing.
- God is saying, “*If you are like this you are blessed!*”
- This seems backward on planet earth—it’s a paradox.
- What does it mean to be blessed?
- Greek word is *makarios* (*mak-ar-ee-os*) which means “*happy or fortunate.*”

1. What kind of kingdom is it now? Today and not yet.

- **Luke 17:20-21 (NASB 2020)** *²⁰Now He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, and He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed; ²¹nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or, ‘There it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”*

2. Who gets into the Kingdom? “The Poor in Spirit!”

- What does it mean to be “*poor in spirit?*”
- Humility: “*I am in need of saving.*” If you won’t let Him save you then you can’t be in the Kingdom!
- “*I am surrendered to the Lord’s leading.*” If you won’t let Him be King in the Kingdom then you can’t be in the Kingdom.
- It does not mean that I am not valuable.
- Jesus says to the proud “You are not good enough in and of yourself.”
- To those who are broken and will admit it, those are the ones who are invited.
- **Mark 2:17; James 4:6; Isaiah 64:6; Luke 18:9-14; Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 3:34, 16:19, 29:23; Matthew 23:12 (NASB 2020)**

3. “Poor in Spirit” does not mean you believe you are worthless.

- **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB 2020)** *⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of*

yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

4. What is the impact of being “**poor in spirit**?”

- If we are built for relationship with God and others, understand that pride kills relationship, but humility makes relationships possible.
- **Philippians 2:1-8; Romans 12:3-8 (NASB 2020).**

How does recognition of my sin lead me to humility, salvation, and relationship?

- The Holy Spirit moves me toward Jesus and helps me see that I am lost, but I am wanted.
- Helps me be recreated in Christ.
- Reminds me of what Jesus has done for me.
- This leads me to worship and humble service.
- **Ephesians 2:1-10 (NASB 2020)**

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

Opening Question: Have you ever found yourself in a situation or position that you did not earn? What was it?

Main Point: The world elevates self-reliance, self-confidence, and self-expression, but Jesus flips that on its head. Being “*poor in spirit*” means we have an accurate assessment of who we are in Christ, and we recognize our utter dependence on Him. By this the world will know that we trust in God and not ourselves.

Main Scripture: **Matthew 5:3, Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB 2020)**

Head Questions

- What did “*poor in spirit*” look like for the disciples of Jesus?
- How does it impact you now when you reflect on all the things God has saved you from?

Heart Questions

- According to **Romans 12:3** how accurately would you say you think about yourself?
- In what ways have you tried to live in your own strength (**John 15:5**)?

Hands Questions

- What needs to change in your thinking to live “*poor in spirit*”?
- What disciplines can help your heart attitude (*prayer, thankfulness, worship, etc.*)?

Additional Scripture: **Isaiah 57:15, Ephesians 1:3-10 (NASB 2020)**