

- ❖ **Beatitudes:** list of character traits and blessings seen in a disciple of Jesus ... Not a 'to-do' list one sets to achieve
 - Beatitudes raise an impossible bar to reach – this is intentional ... Each exposes our inability, sin, and need for Christ ... They're Kingdom characteristics and blessings only our King can produce ... Each trait points to Christ and formed by Holy Spirit ... Each blessing flows from finished work of Christ ... Beatitudes make sense when we view them thru the gospel ... Why are you blessed ... Not because of your achievement ... Because of your union with Christ
 - 1&8 form bookends: **the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs** ... Other 6 interpreted thru this: blessings from the King ... 1&8 a reality we experience now ... 2&7 are realities we experience in part, awaiting fulfillment when Christ returns ... How a disciple is to live in a world so contrary to who they are ... In making disciples, these are traits we're to put on ... We're a paradox people
- ❖ **Poor in Spirit:** awareness of our spiritual and moral condition before God ... We stand empty-handed before Him ... We live in a world that champions "self" ... We follow a Savior who calls us to abandon "self"
 - **Be honest about your self:** **Is45:5, 66:1-2** ... The universe does not revolve around me ... There's very little that I control in life ... And I don't control those things as I should ... Who am I that God should consider me ... Who am I that God extends to me His salvation ... **In my life, there is nothing I have that God hasn't given me** ... I am dependent on Him for everything
 - **Be honest about your sin:** It's said of **GK CHESTERTON:** in newspaper he read a question, *What's wrong with the world;* he wrote them and said, I am ... The greatest evil in the world is sin ... **The greatest issue in my life is sin**, especially the sin I ignore, gloss over, and justify ... I am a man who sins and falls short of God's glory all thru the day, every day ... **JOHN BROWN:** *no hope but in the sovereign mercy of God; no righteousness to glory in but the perfect obedience of Christ* ... What am I holding back from Christ, refusing to hand over ... In what area of my life is it still hard to trust Christ with ... **Pp3:7-9**
 - **Be honest about your Savior:** a proper view of myself must be joined with a proper view of Christ ... **ANDREW BONAR:** *It's not the sight of our sinful heart that humbles us; it's the sight of Jesus Christ* ... Yes, my sin breaks me, but standing before me is the **Savior who forgives me and renews me** ... All that I am and hope to be is found in Him alone ... My pursuit of things in this world must end ... I must pursue Christ no matter the cost ... I refuse to let possessions hold me captive ... **CRUSE:** *Implied messaging in most advertising is that we're not happy because we're missing something... to think happiness is intrinsically linked to something quantifiable is a sad way to live* ... Happiness remains unfulfilled ... Goal keeps moving further down the field ... What we're missing can only be found in Christ ... Poor in spirit understand this ... Live every day in this assurance
- ❖ **Kingdom of Heaven is theirs:** **Is57:15** ... In my poverty, I receive the greatest treasure: God's presence and assurance ... The One who inhabits eternity, lives with me ... His presence revives me, renews me, leads me ... I have direct access to God because of Christ ... What I lack, He provides ... What I need, He gives (**2Pe1:3**) ...
 - We've been given something more secure and more permanent than what this world can offer ... This is why our hope should rest in Him ... This is why our strength is found in Him ... This is why we turn to Him, depend on Him, trust Him ... **6:32-33**