

Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

Trilacoochee
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Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom

- **“Jewish flavor”** – Matthew was clearly written with the Jews in mind.
- Thiesen calls Matthew “the Jewish gospel, dealing with the **King** and his **kingdom.**”
- **Kingdom of Heaven** (or Kingdom of God) – found **38 times** in Matthew.
- Matthew quotes or alludes to the Old Testament **65 times** in his gospel.

The Theme of Matthew

- “This gospel was written to show that **Jesus is the Christ**, the One on whom the **Davidic and Abrahamic** promises converge and find fulfillment.” (Kenny Chumbley, p. 12)
- **Jesus – the King of the Jews**
 - A King like no other.
 - A Kingdom like no other.
 - **We** must be **citizens** like none other.

The Sermon on the Mount

- The ***Constitution of the Kingdom***.
 - The foundation document; a statement of its fundamental principles.
- ***The sermon of true righteousness!***
 - “For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (5:20, Rom. 1:16-17)

The Beatitudes

- Describe the **character** of the kingdom citizens.
 - What do kingdom citizens “look like?”
 - How are they to think and act?
- The description of these individuals is **radically different** from the citizens of worldly kingdoms.
 - Different from the Scribes and Pharisees
 - Different than what people then and today think about as “greatness.”
 - Even radically different than what many members of the Lord’s church think about being a Christian.

Consideration for this week:

- **Have we “lost our edge” as Christians?**
 - Have we become complacent, lukewarm, satisfied?
 - Do we show a lack of enthusiasm and passion about the work of the Lord?
- Have we just **mixed in with the world?**
- Have we allowed **Satan** (and his people) to **intimidate us** into silence?
- Are we **Christian warriors** or **Christian pew sitters?**



The Hippies of the 60s: A Countercultural Movement

“Christian Counterculture” (John R. W. Stott)

- **Counterculture** = “A way of life and set of attitudes opposed to or at variance with the prevailing social norm.”
- The “**Hippies**” were a countercultural movement.
 - They opposed to the norms and culture that they had grown up with.
 - Opposed the morals, political beliefs, and religion of their parents.

Christians Should Be “Counter-culturalists”

- **The culture of this world is corrupt, and diametrically opposed to the will of God.**
 - Just look at television, internet, media.
 - Immodesty, fornication, pornography, divorce; LGBTQ+; transgenderism, abortion, murder, selfishness, anger, materialism.
- **But the Beatitudes will mold us into “Counterculturalists for Christ.”**

“Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”

- Luke – “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.” (6:20)
 - True, God **warns about riches** (Matt. 19:23-24)
 - But this Beatitude does **not** refer to physically poverty.
 - The rich CAN be saved, and the poor CAN be lost.
 - There is no inherent virtue in poverty.
 - And the characteristics of this kingdom are **spiritual** and not physical **in nature**.

“Poor”

- “To be poor as a beggar... to be destitute” (Vine)
- “The Greek word here translated “poor” comes from a root word which means to crouch or to cringe. It refers not simply to those for whom life is a struggle, but to men who are reduced to the most abject begging because they have ***absolutely nothing*** (Lk. 16:20-21).” (Paul Earnhart, p. 8)



But this blessing is not upon **ALL** those who are spiritually poor.

- **ALL** are “spiritually poor” in that all are **guilty of sin and separated from God.**
 - “**All have sinned** and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23)
 - “Among whom **we also all once lived** in the **lusts of our flesh ...** and were by nature **children of wrath** even as the rest” (Eph. 2:3)
- **If this blessing was for all sinners, that would be universal salvation. BUT...**

Blessed are those who recognize their spiritual destitution!

- Who **recognize** their sinfulness.
 - The Publican – “God be thou merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13).
- Who **recognize** that “it is not in man that walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23).
- Those who **recognize** that they are HELPLESS (Rom. 5:6)

- **This is the reason we so badly needed a Savior.**
 - **Matt. 1:21** – “And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**; for it is he that shall **save** his people from their **sins.**” (ASV)
 - **Σόζω** – “to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction.”

Romans 5:6-10

- “For while we were **weak...**” (v. 6)
- “Christ died for the **ungodly**” (v. 6)
- “**Sinners**” (v. 8)
- “Saved from the **wrath** of God” (v. 9)
- “**Enemies**” (v. 10)

The Beatitudes describe the *character* of kingdom citizens.

- The 1st – “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”
 - This is the realization that I am spiritually destitute; spiritually a beggar.
 - A sinner; lost; without hope; in need of the grace of God.
- This realization should lead to a “mourning” over my sins, humility and submissiveness,



Introduction

- I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks for the invitation of the elders and this congregation to be with you this week.
- You have blessed me with a great responsibility, and I don't take it lightly.
- You have asked me to speak to you eight times this week – and that is a lot of lessons.
- And it is my prayer that I will be wise with the use of time that you have asked me to share with you.
- I have appreciated you from “afar” – visited your gospel meetings – known of your good work, and I look forward to getting to know you better.
- Because I don't know you personally, please know that I'm not preaching at you personally.
- I'm going to preaching from the beatitudes of Jesus in Matt. 5 –
 - Because I believe they are so rich
 - And so fundamental and so helpful to us as Christians.
- There are eight beatitudes in Matt – and we have eight lessons, so that works out perfectly... except
- Before I get to the first beatitude, the poor in spirit, I need to set the table a little and talk about Matthew, the Sermon on the Mt generally and then get into the Beatitudes. Need to set the context:

How did we get in this condition?

- Not through birth (the Calvinistic doctrine of total depravity).
- It seems to me that the doctrine of total depravity and this beatitude are contradictory in nature.
 - Calvinism says you are totally depraved – and cannot do anything to change that.
 - They say it takes a miraculous working of the HS to come into your heart.
 - Why would God bless someone for something he has no control over whatsoever?