

Matthew 5:1-3
The Beatitudes
Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Read V.1-16

Today we are beginning a brand new series in the sermon on the Mount.

A)The greatest sermon ever preached – Preached by Jesus – first message that he gave. – GREAT ONE.

B) The Sermon on the Mount is sometimes thought of as Jesus' "**Declaration of the Kingdom.**"

C)With this message, Jesus declares what His Kingdom is all about.

1)**The Worldview of Jesus!**

D)It actually Begins with the subject of Happiness

This opening section of the Sermon of the Mount is known as the Beatitudes

A)Each begins with the word – **Blessed = Happy – Happy are**

B)Beatitudes have been called the **The Be Happy attitudes** –

1)Might think of them as A case study in true happiness

C)Attitudes the Lord is seeking to WORK into the Life of the Christian.

The Pursuit of Happiness a popular topic – 47 million hits on google

A)Most people are interested in being happy!

B)Lots of opinions on how to find it:

Charles Shultz – comic strip fame – Charlie Brown – "**Happiness is a warm Puppy.**" Wife – agree – On the hunt for a Puppy.

Albert Schweitzer: "**Happiness is nothing more than good health and a Bad memory.**"

Comedian George Burns: "**Happiness is having a large loving, caring and close Knit family –IN another city.**"

People often think: **More money will buy them happiness**

- "Money can buy **you a bed** but it can't buy you a good night sleep"
- "Money can buy you **books** but it cannot buy you brains."
- "Money can buy you **a house** but it can't buy you a home."
- "Money can buy **you medicine**, but it can't buy you health."
- Money can buy **you amusement** but it can't buy you happiness

To quote **Sir Paul and the rest of the boys from Liverpool** – "Money can't buy you love."

Our culture says -Happiness is based on Happenings – Raise – my team won the girl said yes – Win the Award - Happy –

A)The Problem is it is fleeting – Momentary

- **Harrison Ford** – Mr. Han Solo, Indiana Jones, cover of most beautiful American male way into his 60's and yet when asked what is the one thing you want – his answer to Newsweek – "**Happiness**"
- **Tom Brady** – won multiple super bowls – married to a super model – asked by ESPN the magazine, what do you still want to achieve – "**Happiness**"

Quotes like that remind us that **Achieving success, fulfilling dreams, being wealthy – doesn't = Happiness**

A)Been said: Two sources of unhappiness in this life: The first is not getting what you want – the 2nd is getting it!

- **Jim Carrey**: "**I wish everybody could get rich and famous and have everything they ever dreamed of, so they will know that it is not the answer.**"

Now when you look at the list of ingredients Jesus gives for happiness, there is a big shock in store!

A)This is a strange list to say the least

B) Many of these qualities appear the very antithesis of what most of us are looking for

- "Happy are the poor in spirit - ",
- "Happy are those who mourn –
- Happy are the Meek – aren't meek people weak?

Bb) The major difference in this list is that Jesus is not talking about **qualities in the physical realm** (the area in which most people look for happiness),

C) He is speaking in terms of the realm of the spirit.

D) Augustine who said: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you." ~ Augustine.

E) That is the reality that Jesus is keying in on here in the Sermon on the Mount. Specifically the Beatitudes

The first sixteen verses of Matthew 5 describe and deal with character.

A) The rest of the Sermon on the Mount deals with **conduct** that grows out of character.

B) Character always comes before conduct, because what we are determines what we do.

C) **Setting** – Hillside in Galilee – Mount of Beatitudes Pics

And seeing the multitudes, At this time large crowds were following Jesus

A) Jump back into Ch.4

²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵ Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

B) That means that crowds came from over one hundred miles or more to be with Him.

1) Told in another place – Jesus saw the multitudes – Compassion on them – they were like Sheep without a Shepherd – Heart Broke

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them,

Notice there in verse 2 it says He **was seated** with His disciples

A) Is that important? Yes – See Rabbi's in the first century would teach their disciples in one of two ways.

B) The lesson would be given as they were walking – 1) We see Jesus do this often, IN THE GOSPELS

C) Walking along with his Disciples – instructing

1) **Using the scenery around him** – By a Farm – Farmer sowing seed

D) The Kingdom of God is like a farmer

But when a Rabbi would take the time to stop and sit down -

A) It would mean something very important is about to be taught

B) So by noting that Jesus **sat down** Matthew is telling us, what Jesus was about to share was going to be really important

C) This was no ordinary sermon, but important message from the King of kings

Primary Audience

A) Please don't miss the significance here: Seeing the Multitudes – COMPASSION - **He called his disciples to come to him.**

B) Seeing the need around Him – He chose to teach and Equip his closest followers. – **More than the 12** (not chosen yet)

C) The sermon on the mount is directed at believers.

D) Now Matthew 7:28 tells us the crowds were astonished at his teaching.

1) Safe to say that many in the crowd made their way up to listen –

D) But I think Matthew points out this little distinction – that his disciples came to him –
(Who the sermon is directed to)

E) Reason is: What is taught in this sermon – can only be carried out by someone who has been indwelt and empowered by the Spirit of God

With that as a backdrop – let's begin our look at this sermon – by seeing what is Jesus' starting point for true Happiness?

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

A) What does it mean to be poor in Spirit?

B) First what it doesn't mean: **Jesus was not referring to material or financial poverty.**

1) This has been the error of many groups through the centuries, including the ancient Franciscan monks and even the modern day liberal.

C) It is the idea that if you are poor, then you are in a special relationship to God as though poverty equates to spirituality. {Not the message at all.

Approval with God – comes through a relationship with God through Jesus Christ – ALONE –

A) NOT POVERTY

B) Paul said: I have learned to be content with a little or a lot.

C) So Physical or Financial poverty is not the issue

It also doesn't mean Downer – Eeyore Complex we walk around like spiritual Eeyores

A) "oh bother - I'm poor in Spirit." – no body wants to be around me,

B) Some people think if they act like that, they are really being poor in Spirit

1) But again, being depressing has nothing to do with being poor in Spirit

C) The Bible declares: **Happy are the People who's God is the Lord!** – Happy

Poor in Spirit is also not a natural weakness or one who has an inferiority complex.

A) Some have tried to embrace poverty in spirit by reminding everyone around them of how humble and lowly they are!

B) Others have a natural "wallflower" mentality, so that they shrink from any attention or notice.

1) None of these things equate to poverty in spirit. What does it mean to be poor in Spirit?

A) It is a sense of spiritual bankruptcy and helplessness before God. –

B) Nothing I can do to change my spiritual condition as a sinner.

C) "Poor in spirit" is the realization that you have no assets to commend yourself before God.

1) You have no capital with which to bargain at the throne of judgment. It is a sense of moral uncleanness before God.

D) It is a sense of personal unworthiness before God.

Put simply: Realize your utter dependency upon God for everything

A) Starting with Salvation – We understand – Nothing we can do to earn our RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD

B) BUT moves beyond Salvation – to the place of learning to depend on His grace and strength to live the Christian life.

1) To be the Husband - the wife - the parent – the Christian - He has called me to be

C) I don't have it within myself to consistently be who or what the Lord has called me to be!

Examples of being Poor in Spirit:

A) A great picture Jesus gave to show us the difference is found in Luke 18:9-14 - Turn there “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” – Luke 18:9-14

B) What do we see in this parable of Jesus?

1) First you have this Pharisee that is full of Pride “Lord I thank God I am not like other men....”

C) Some people approach God like He got a Good deal in choosing them

1) God I am your man! - God needs me

D) So first of all we have a Proud Pharisee but then we have this Tax Collector – Not monetarily poor

Tax collectors were rich: But the Tax collector is an example of one who is Poor in Spirit.

A) He wouldn't even look up to the heavens, but just beat his chest and said, Lord be merciful to me a sinner, I am desperate before you

B) Promise from Psalm 51 – “ A Broken and Contrite heart – God will not despise.

C) We see another example in Paul the Apostle in Phil 3 – giving his testimony.

1) Naming all his credentials from when he was a Pharisee – pedigree – trained in the best schools

D) Award winning student – A religious leader

E) Paul says: Everything I was in my flesh I have laid aside – that I might know Christ - Rubbish – Dung

Prodigal son – Ran off – came to his senses – he didn't say:

A) "I'll claim my rights of sonship and get back into the land of plenty"

B) No, instead he said – I am going to go back and tell my Dad I have sinned.... No longer worthy son – Can I be one of his SERVANTS

C) That is what it means to be Poor in Spirit.

Why does Jesus mention this Beatitude First?

A) Kind of seems like a downer way to begin a sermon on Happiness

B) **Jesus mentions this beatitude first**, not because He is putting together some haphazard list 1) and this just happened to be the first thing that popped into His mind

C) **Poor in Spirit is first because** – everything else flows from it

1) Picture of the Train – Engine of the Locomotive – Fuels the rest

See When I realize how destitute I am and in need of Christ

A) Result is to mourn – over my sin – But Jesus is good to comfort me and remind me that I am forgiven

B) That leads to meekness – not weakness – but power under control

C) **Poor in spirit brings me to the place of realizing** – the most important thing **is not** who I am in myself or in my flesh

1) But who I am in Christ – That is where Power is seen – that is when victory happens –

D) Life lived under His control

Leads me to Hunger and thirst for Righteousness – or More of Jesus

A) Result – Purity and Being Merciful

B)But it all begins with being poor in Spirit – Realizing my utter dependency upon God for everything.

C)Understanding in my flesh – fall short

So How do we become poor in Spirit?

A)Simple: You look at God!

B)**Isaiah – Five Chapters Woe is you.....**
Chapter 6 saw God -

1)**Woe is me an undone man of unclean lips**

C)That is how it starts – **You see the Lord** – in His word

1)You need to pick up this book and see who He really is, and who you really are

D)Read this book, read all of it – **read the law, see how far you fall short**

1)Contemplate for a moment that day that you will stand before Him, because every one of us will

E)In and of myself – I am doomed – no assets to stand before a Holy God – NEED JESUS
Look at Jesus!

A)Gaze: See him in everything that He is and realize – everything that I am not!

B)**Jesus is the Standard:** Not another Christian.

1)Husbands Love your wives as Christ - Watch how Jesus loved his disciples. –

C)**IN tune to their needs** – times when I would think – they should be serving Him and instead – He was serving them.

From the Cross – Betrayed, Forsaken, Beaten, Nailed to the Cross

A)He says – Father forgive them Do.

B)**Who does that – Think no way:**

1)I can't forgive them

C)It is realizing that in and of yourself – you don't have what it takes to live out what we see in Jesus.

Jealousy Story: I tried – but harder I tried worse it got

A)Broken –Lord I can't

B)**Everyday – Lord I can't -You can – help me – take the steps**

1)He dealt with my heart

C)THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS POOR IN SPIRIT

The Blessings of being Poor in the Spirit?

➤ **“For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven”**

The Kingdom of heaven is an interesting topic

A)There is definitely a Future and a present aspect to it

B)As Christians we live w/ a 3 Dimensional Perspective – Living in the midst of 3 Kingdoms

1)3 D movie – Glasses – things jumping out at you.

C)But the purpose of those glasses is to bring things into focus.

1)The scriptures are **our glasses that help bring this life into focus**

So what are the three Kingdoms we associate with?

A)First there is **the world or Kingdom around us** – this planet / our jobs / our friends / these fleshly bodies / all of which – Present challenges

B)This world that we live in is marked by greed / unfairness / disappointment

C)**This world is controlled by our adversary the Devil – god of this world**

1) He has an agenda – program – that is aimed at – **DESTRUCTION and DISTRACTION**

D)Distracting people of their need of God/ - DESTROY

Then there is the world or the Kingdom which is to Come – The Kingdom of our Lord – marked by peace / Joy / perfect righteousness

A)A kingdom in which there will be no more pain / no more sorrow / no tears / a Kingdom marked by Beauty, Perfection & Ultimate Satisfaction

B) We are presently **longing** for that Kingdom – longing for that day when we will enter into that perfect & complete rest & be with our Lord

C) Joy that is beyond anything we could ever experience in this life !!

2nd Opens the door for Kingdom resources

- 1) Sufficiency of His Grace
- 2) Abounding of His Love
- 3) His Power
- 4) His Mercy

Transformation is the Result

But then there is this 3rd Kingdom – the Kingdom within

A) The Kingdom **within our hearts** where He who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords is wanting to reign

B) Jesus made this statement in Luke 17:21 to His disciples that the ***Kingdom of God is within You***

1) Meaning that wherever the King is reigning there the Kingdom of God is

C) So when we allow Jesus to reign in our Lives – **He sets up His Kingdom w/ in our Hearts (Makes our hearts His home)**

So As we align our hearts w/ His Heart – thru studying His word –

A) He seeks to help us Navigate our way successfully in this world / In a way that is **Preparing us for the Kingdom that is to Come**

B) So as Believers we are to be **3 Dimensional people** – Living in this world / Longing and Looking for that Kingdom that is to come

C) Finding the Balance & being effective – by being submitted to the King has set up His Kingdom within our Hearts / Directing our lives

Blessed..... Theirs is the Kingdom –

- Future Entry to Salvation and a glorious eternity

Also Present: Two aspects

1st Kingdom Mindset and perspective

- 1) He is greater than I
- 2) I exist for His glory
- 3) I am a part of His mission
- 4) I am concerned for His burden
- 5) He wins – Janitor studying revelation