

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Series: The Sermon on the Mount

Matt 4:17 From that time **Jesus began to preach**, saying, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

As crowds gathered, he taught about that kingdom and began with The Beatitudes "the blessed life"

- Many of them are counter-intuitive (poor in spirit, mourn, persecuted)
- It shows there is something about the kingdom that apart from Jesus, we would never comprehend

Matt 5:3 ESV Blessed are the poor in spirit...theirs is the kingdom of heaven

- It is not an economic statement, it is statement about our spirit → "blessed are the poor in spirit"
- **POOR** Shrink or cower or cringe, beggar with hand reaching out for alms (**what if this was our spirit?**)
- **The lame man(carried) acts 3 ask alms -- Lazarus (laid) desiring even crumbs, dogs licked sores**

Theirs is the kingdom -- a gift to those who recognize we are poor spiritually (we bring nothing)

- Eph 2:8-10 ESV For by **grace** you have been saved through faith. And **this is not your own doing**; it is the **gift of God**, 9 **not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**
- Salvation is the greatest blessing given to the least deserving

Some examples -- they had nothing -- but in the Lord they found all they needed- they "asked alms"

Isaiah "I am a man of unclean lips" (Isa 6:5)

Gideon "family is the least in Manasseh" (Jud 6:15)

Jeremiah "I do not know how to speak" (Jer 1:6)

Moses "Who am I?" (Ex 3:11)

Peter "Depart, for I am a sinful man." (Luke 5:8)

Paul "I am the chiefest of sinners." (I Tim 1:15)

Spiritual Pride vs Poor in Spirit --- Luk 18:9-14 ESV He also told this parable to some **who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and **treated others with contempt**: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, '**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**' 14 I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."**

Paul saw Jesus for who he is -- moved to become poor in spirit, and wanted nothing more than Him

Php 3:3-11 ESV For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and **put no confidence in the flesh**-- 4 though **I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh** also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 **circumcised** on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a **Hebrew of Hebrews**; as to the law, a **Pharisee**; 6 as to **zeal**, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness **under the law, blameless**. 7 But whatever gain I had, **I counted as loss for the sake of Christ**. 8 Indeed, **I count everything as loss** because of the surpassing **worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake **I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish**, in order that I may **gain Christ** 9 and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith**-- 10 **that I may know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Summary - **Spiritual pride?** Looking down? Comparing? Need of nothing?- pray you can find humility

Poor in spirit? - not doing poorly, recognizing right place with God, and look to him for help - a beautiful place

Are you wanting to know Christ, to gain Christ to the point that you are willing to count everything as dung?