

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Lesson: #2

Title: Poor in Spirit

Scripture: Matthew 5: 3

Date: 5-17-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Matthew 5: 3: Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I. BLESSED

A. The word "blessed" means highly favored by God.

Sinners pray to God to bless men. He may or may not. But when God blesses, according to his purpose and power, he effectually makes sinners TO BE possessors of all of his blessing.

B. These are not stages that a believer strives for one-by-one or gradually attains or arrives at little-by-little. These things tell us what a believer IS in whom God has effectually blessed.

- Every believer IS poor in spirit
- Every believer DOES mourn.
- Every believer IS meek.
- Every believer DOES hunger and thirst after righteousness.
- Every believer IS merciful.
- Every believer IS pure in heart.
- Every believer IS a peacemaker
- Every believer IS persecuted for righteousness sake.

If these characteristics describe you then you HAVE BEEN AND ARE blessed by God.

Matthew 5: 3: Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

II. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

A. Being poor in spirit is opposite to the spirit we have as we are born into this world the first time.

Man was made by God and not God by us. We were made of the dust of the earth by God. We were given the breath of life by God. Everything that was made was made by God and given to us. Our life depended upon God sustaining us (still does.) Yet, when we transgressed against God in the garden in Adam, we went away backwards.

Immediately man began to think we were as God. The natural man thinks God owes him something. **Psalm 10:4: The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.** We are highminded and stouthearted. "Bulls" the scripture calls us with hearts of stone. **Proverbs 30:12: There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness; Isaiah 65:5: Which say,**

Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

B. Those who are poor in spirit are blessed because God made them so.

The LORD Jehovah says, **Ezekiel 11: 19: And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: 20: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.**

The new spirit God gives makes a sinner behold what he truly is in himself and thus he is poor in spirit. The sinner poor in spirit know that in himself he has absolutely nothing to offer God. I need righteousness which I do not have and can not produce; I need to have my sins blotted out forever; I need to be made holy to be accepted of God which I can not achieve by any of my deeds; I need to be saved from start to finish by God in Christ through the Holy Spirit; I need mercy and grace.

Therefore those poor in spirit come to God fearing and trembling, respecting God as God. The poor in spirit come owning that we are nothing, have nothing and can produce nothing; the poor in spirit come begging God to give freely what God is pleased to give. **Psalm 34: 16: The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17: *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18: The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit; Psalm 51: 16: For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17: The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.**

Notice the difference between the haughty spirit and the poor in spirit in this parable: Luke 18: 9: And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11: The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12: I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon 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 every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Illustration: When is it that your father gives to you? When you come boasting or begging? **To this man will I look, even to him that is poor, and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word (Isa. 66:2).**

III. THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN SPIRIT ARE RICH IN GOD.

Matthew 5: 3: Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10: 13: And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*. 14: But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is made up of little children; the kingdom of God is made up of little children who come unto Christ the King. Everything you need is in Christ:

- Everlasting righteousness
- Perfection of holiness
- No more remembrance of sins

As long as you imagine that you are somebody with something in yourself to bring to God you are nothing and you have nothing! But if you are poor in spirit owning that you have nothing and possess nothing in yourself and are simply coming to Christ your All then the God of all grace has given you his kingdom. **Mark 10: 15: Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 16: And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.**