

Text: Matthew 5:3

Title: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit.

Thesis: The poor in Spirit are happy because they are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, experiencing the grace of it in this life and the glory of it in the life to come.

- I. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
 - A. Poor in regards to spiritual matters.
 - B. 2 Illustrations:
 1. The Publican (Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: [10] "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] "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. [12] 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' [13] "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!' [14] "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."
 2. The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)
 - C. To be poor in spirit is to acknowledge your utter spiritual bankruptcy and thus depend on the grace of God in Christ alone for salvation and living the Christian life.
- II. How does one become poor in spirit?
 - A. The Spirit working with the Word convinces you of your true condition.
 - B. The Bible declares that you are spiritually poverty stricken.
 1. RO 3: 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; [11] There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. [12] They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." [13] "Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps *is* under their lips"; [14] "Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness." [15] "Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; [16] Destruction and misery *are* in their ways; [17] And the way of peace they have not known." [18] "There is no fear of God before their eyes." [19] Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
 2. ISA 64:6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.
 - C. The Holy Spirit opens your eyes to see your true condition as it is described in the Bible, a condition of spiritual bankruptcy.
- III. Why are the poor in spirit declared to be “blessed” or “happy”?
 - A. The poor in spirit are blessed or happy because they are citizens of and possessors of the kingdom of heaven.
 - B. Presently, in this life the poor in Spirit experience the grace of the kingdom of heaven which includes the following:

1. Salvation from the penalty of sin.
 2. Salvation from the power of sin.
 3. Adoption by the King.
 4. Access to the King.
 5. Provision by the King.
 6. Protection by the King.
- C. Shortly, in the next life the poor in spirit will experience the glory of the kingdom of heaven which includes the following:
1. Salvation from the presence of sin.
 2. Honor from the King.
 3. A permanent home with the King.
 4. Unending fellowship with all of the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.
 5. Unending direct communion with the King.
- D. The poor in spirit are declared to be blessed or happy because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

IV. Applications:

- A. Have you come to the point in your life where you recognize your spiritual poverty?
- B. You who are poor in spirit be comforted, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.
- C. You who are proud in spirit be confronted with the reality of your condition.
 1. REV 3:17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' —and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— [18] "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.
 2. You who think you are rich spiritually, you who are self-righteous and think you are good enough to enter the kingdom of heaven realize your spiritual poverty before it is too late.

Conclusion: The Lord Jesus declared, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. The poor in Spirit are happy because they are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, experiencing the grace of it in this life and the glory of it in the life to come. You who recognize your spiritual bankruptcy, be comforted, for yours is the kingdom of heaven. Though you are poor, in Christ you have become rich indeed, receiving grace in this life and glory in the life to come. You who will not recognize your spiritual poverty and depend upon God alone, you will receive neither grace nor glory until you turn from your proud self-righteousness and humble yourself before the Lord.