

Text in your attendance to # 208.904.3222 Message: Here

Women's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1777

Text to give to Real Life, simply text your amount to # 208.515.7441

Men's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1822

If you are new with us, text your attendance to # 208.904.3222 Message: New

POOR IN SPIRIT

1. Paradox

- a. A paradox is a statement that makes a claim that seems self-contradictory but is actually true

2. The Sermon on the Mount

- a. In order to understand what Jesus thinks leads to the good life... we first need to understand: 1) **his audience** and 2) **his purpose**

Matthew 4:23 - 5:3 (ESV) "23 And he [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- i. **Audience:** In the crowd were Jews, Gentiles, sick, people possessed by demons, and his disciples... but it is noteworthy that Jesus aims his message first towards his disciples.
- ii. **Purpose:** Jesus presents:
 1. In the Beatitudes what His followers will be like - characteristics
 2. How to live life in a broken and perverse world

Matthew 5:3 (ESV) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

3. "Blessed"

- a. The word blessed here in the Greek is "Makarios" which means "Happy, fortunate or blessed" and its Hebrew equivalent is ashrey.
 - i. Queen of Sheba, Psalm 1
- b. Jesus uses this version of the word "Blessed" and says essentially:
 - i. "You want to know where the good life begins... it starts when a person is poor in spirit."

4. "Poor in spirit"

- a. Poor means to lack something... and at its core "poor in spirit" means that we lack power... ASK: Power to do what?
- b. John Piper explains it more fully:
 - i. "It is a sense of powerlessness in ourselves. It is a sense of spiritual bankruptcy and helplessness before God. It is a sense of moral uncleanness before God. It is a sense of personal unworthiness before God. It is a sense that if there is to be any life or joy or usefulness, it will have to be all of God and all of grace."
- c. The paradox: At the moment where we are despairing because we see how powerless we are on the inside, we are blessed because this realization of our lack is the first thing that leads to the good life.
 - i. Why? Because humility is met by God's grace

1 Peter 5:5b (ESV) "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

5. Clarify

- a. **1st Clarification:** This is not the poverty gospel... that the financially poor or socially poor are saved for being poor... even they need to recognize their need for God.

- b. **2nd Clarification:** Everyone is poor in spirit, but not everyone acknowledges it. And only those who do are blessed.
- c. **3rd Clarification:** Acknowledging your powerlessness before God is only one part of a whole new way of living, because many people see that they are broken but do they feel it and 2) mourn, and then 4) hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 - i. Where do you need to acknowledge your lack of power before God?

6. "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

a. You are now a citizen of Heaven

Philippians 3:20 (NIV) "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

b. As a citizen, you have been given a job by the King

- i. He calls you to "seek first the kingdom"
 - 1. Build and grow his kingdom... How?
 - 2. The world teaches us that the good life is found through:
 - a. **Self-esteem:** My greatest need is to think greater about who I am.
- ii. Where does Jesus go in the sermon?
 - 1. **Anger** - How does being poor in spirit affect your anger?

Matthew 5:21-24 (ESV) "21 'You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

- a. I see how I have broken that command and deserve hell.
- b. I see the other person as an image bearer of God
- c. God, you can help me overcome any anger.
- d. God, you are pleased when I reconcile with others.

For Small Group Discussion

Opening Question: Have you ever found yourself in a situation or position that you did not earn? What was it?

Main Point: The world elevates self-reliance, self-confidence and self-expression, but Jesus flips that on its head. Being "poor in spirit" means we have an accurate assessment of who we are in Christ and we recognize our utter dependence on Him. By this the world will know that we trust in God and not ourselves.

Main Scripture: Matthew 5:3, Philippians 2:5-8

Head Questions

- What did "poor in spirit" look like for the disciples of Jesus?
- How does it impact you now when you reflect on all the things God has saved you from?

Heart Questions

- According to Romans 12:3 how accurately would you say you think about yourself?
- In what ways have you tried to live in your own strength? (John 15:5)

Hands Questions

- What needs to change in your thinking to live "poor in spirit"?
- What disciplines can help your heart attitude? Prayer, thankfulness, worship, etc...
- **Additional Scripture:** Isaiah 57:15, Ephesians 1:3-10

To watch the Sermon Team on The Overtime Podcast, go to: <https://bit.ly/RLOvertime>

