

The Blessing of Bankruptcy

Matthew 5:3

The spiritually bankrupt are blessed because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

1. What does it mean to be blessed?
 - a. According to our world.

 - b. According to Jesus.

2. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
 - a. It is comparable to material poverty.

 - b. It is your act of filing spiritual bankruptcy with God.

3. What does it mean to possess the kingdom of heaven?
 - a. Its present glory belongs to us.

 - b. Its future glory belongs to us.

For this Week

- Jesus wants us to make a connection between material poverty and spiritual poverty. Write out your own list of realities that impoverished people face and then draw your own comparisons to spiritual poverty.
- Use a concordance or electronic search tools to find passages in the Old Testament that speak about the poor (e.g. Exod. 22:25; Lev. 25:25, etc.). Try to make connections to spiritual poverty.
- Discuss with someone else or write out in your own words what it would mean for you to declare spiritual bankruptcy to the Lord. Have you done this?
- What would change if you lived in an awareness of your own spiritual destitution? How would you treat others differently?



BE DIFFERENT
LIVE DIFFERENT

Matthew 5-7



ID

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
because they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle,
because they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, because they shall be satisfied.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the merciful,
because they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
because they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
because they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for
the sake of righteousness, because theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

The Beatitudes are **NOT**
prescriptions for believers;
they are *descriptions*.

The Beatitudes teach us to
live in the tension of an
Already-But-Not-Yet reality.

The Blessing of Bankruptcy

Matthew 5:3

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“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

**What does it mean
to be blessed?**

According to our world

A tour of “blessings”

*By what we identify as “blessings,”
we prove that we largely think of it
in terms of material well-being.*

Jeremiah 44:17

But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food, and were well off, and saw no misfortune.

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What does it mean to be blessed?

According to the world.

According to Jesus.

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

*“Blessed” refers to what the poor
in spirit **are** not to what they feel
or experience.*

It is a **statement** of being
tied to a **state** of being.

But what is the blessing?

Matthew 5:3

“The poor in spirit are blessed **because** the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.”

In each Beatitude Jesus
gives a reason for
believers to consider
themselves blessed.

The reasons of blessing.

Because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Because they shall be comforted.

Because they shall inherit the earth.

Because they shall be satisfied.

Because they shall receive mercy.

Because they shall see God.

Because they shall be called sons of God.

**What does it mean to be
poor in spirit?**

It is comparable to
material poverty.

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 6:20

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is
the kingdom of God.”

Throughout the OT God is favorable toward the poor because, in their helplessness, they illustrate the spiritual condition of all mankind.

Psalm 34:6

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 10:14

The helpless commits himself to You;
You have been the helper of the orphan.

Isaiah 25:4

For you have been a defense to the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm and a shade from the heat...

A comparison of the materially and spiritually poor.

The Materially Poor

Are hungry.

Are kept from relief by
their poverty.

Don't know what
tomorrow will bring.

Can't buy privilege.

Have nothing of their
own to offer.

Desperately need help
from others.

The Spiritually Poor

Are spiritually hungry.

Are kept from relief by
their sin.

Don't know what
tomorrow will bring.

Can't buy favor from God.

Have nothing of their
own to offer.

Desperately need help
from God.

What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

It is comparable to material poverty.

It is your act of filing spiritual
bankruptcy with God.

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor **in spirit**,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Your spiritual bankruptcy...

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

Your spiritual bankruptcy...

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

Isaiah 64:6

“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.”

Your spiritual bankruptcy...

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

Isaiah 64:6

“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.”

Romans 3:10-12

There is none righteous, not even one;
There is none who understands, There is none
who seeks for God; All have turned aside,
together they have become useless; There is
none who does good, There is not even one."

*How does your heart react if I say,
“**You are nothing before God**”?*

Isaiah 40:17

All the nations are as nothing before Him,
they are regarded by Him as less than
nothing and meaningless.

Be Careful!

Revelation 3:17

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

**How does one become
poor in spirit?**

Not by a decision of your will.

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed **are** the poor in spirit...”

It is not a way of **DOING**;
it is a way of **BEING**.

How does one become poor in spirit?

Not by a decision of your will.

You will become spiritually poor
by seeing God.

The results of seeing God...

Isaiah 6:5

"Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

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Isaiah 6:5

"Woe is me, for **I am ruined!** Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; **because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**"

As long as you live horizontally
focused, you will never truly be
ruined before God.

***Until you are truly ruined,
you will never be truly blessed.***

**What does it mean to
possess the kingdom?**

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
because **the kingdom of heaven
belongs to them.**”

What does it mean to
possess the kingdom?

Its **present** glory belongs to us.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

What does it mean to possess the kingdom?

Its present glory belongs to us.

Its **future** glory belongs to us.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or **things to come**; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

Isaiah 60:5

Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.

Are you poor in spirit?

***Are you filing spiritual
bankruptcy with God?***