

Title: Why We Must Be Broken

1st Beatitude

Text: Matthew 5:3

Let's turn in our Bibles to Matthew chapter 5. Matthew chapter 5:3. *This is*
~~We are in~~ *the second* of a series of messages on the Beatitudes. There is a
 basic position being discussed *Here* in the Beatitudes. It is the position of
 being "blessed." Last week I indicated the difference between the word
 "happiness" and the word "blessed." And there is a real distinction that
 needs to be made because "happiness" is depended upon the circumstances of
 my life. And if they are not going my way than I am not happy. But,
 "blessedness" is a condition of the heart that depends solely upon God.

And flowing out of this position of being "blessed" is a practice of
 the believer which is demonstrated in 8 different areas. All of which are
 very strange from the worlds point of view. It seems, for example, very
 strange that one would be blessed if he were "poor in spirit." It seems
 very strange that he would be blessed because he "Mourns". It seems very
 strange that he would be blessed for being persucted all the time.

But, this is the general theme of the beatitudes. They reveal the life
of Christ in us. And of course, this is total contary to the viewpoint of
 he world which often *makes self* ~~centers in~~ the goal of happiness ~~itself~~ -

Dear friends, if you are seeking happiness by getting your circumstances
 all strightened around so that they bless you, Or, at least, they will bring
 you some measure of so called "sucess", you will undoubtly be frustrated
 most of your life.

It is the poosition of our life as being "blessed" that brings the
 greatest amount of happiness. Because it abides whether *The Circumstance* ~~it~~ is joy or
 sorrow or blessing or trail. And that is what we are looking at in this
 section of God's Word called the Beatitudes.

Now, Matthew chapter 5 verse 3 is our text for today....

(Read Matthew 5:3)

Let's join together for a moment of prayer

Now, remember our outline.

~~So that we might understand the beatitudes I have put before you in your notes a little outline which divides into three areas. It is listed as IA, 2A, and 3A in your notes. And the titles are:~~

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The matter of practiceThe matter of position..the matter of promise. I hope this will help you understand how this beatitude follows in terms of application. There is ~~2A~~ a position stated: "Blessed be the poor in Spirit." There is also, a promise stated. And this promise involves a practice.

Now, as we consider this matter of practice, what is the meaning of the word "poor"? What is the poverty that is really intended in this verse? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT?

Well, it doesn't take to many brains to understand what it means to be "poor" in material goods. But, what does it mean to be poor in Spirit?

In the Greek language you have two separate words translated "poor". I have given them to you in your notes.

now

First, we have the word "Penas". This word is used twice in the N.T. It is used in the Gospel of Luke and in 2 Corinthians. Let's turn to Luke chapter 21. The Gospel of Luke chapter 21.

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This word "Penas" is to be contrasted with the ^{second} word "potocas". The word "potocas" is the word for "poor" used in the Beatitudes. And there is a big difference in meaning between these two words.

POTOCAS

Now, notice Luke chapter 21 verse 1.....(READ Luke 21"1-4)

It is interesting to note that this widow had a living. But, she was "poor." ^{Now} So, the word basically means "to suffer pain." And it was used of a person who was fully capable of working for his needs, but because of his condition he happened to be poor in matterial things rather than rich. And ^{So,} he suffered pain in working for his livelyhood. He was a poor person who worked for every dime he got.

So, that is one word used for "poor".

You will, also, find this word in 2 Corinthians 9:9, which is a quote from the O.T. It comes from Psalms 112:9.

2 Corinthians chapter 9 is dealing with the subject of "giving." The principle of Giving. And Vs 9 of this chapter says: "as it is written, He scattered abroad, He gave to the poor, His righteousness abides forever."

In the content of this chapter on giving, the "poor" are exalted. The poor Macedonian Christians are exalted for their giving out-off their poverty to the Lord. And Paul is talking, again, of what they had aquired.

So, the Greek word "Penas" translated "poor" is dealing primarily with one who is "poor" by the standards of the world. Yet, the person has the ability to acquire his or her needs. Materialistly he is poor. Materialistly, he doesn't have the possessions that other folks have. But, he is a working man. He works for every dime he has. He is earning a living and providing for his needs and the needs of his family. He is laboring and suffering pain and accomplishing what he can do himself to meet his needs.

Now, let's come back to Matthew chapter 5.

In Matthew chapter 5 we have a different Greek word that is tranlated "Poor". It is the Greek word "Potocas" It is used some 40 times in the N.T. And it is most often translated "BEGGAR"....

It refers to someone who sits and begs for alms. The person has no job. He doesn't work. He has no family to support. He is a beggar and he is alone.

So, the primary meaning of "POTOCAS" is "ONE WHO CANNOT MEET HIS OWN NEEDS."

Do you remember the story of Lazarus in Luke chapter 16? The poor man Lazarus feeding himself from the crumbs that had fallen from the rich man's table. The dogs licking his sores. He was a beggar....And he was in poverty with no ability to meet his own needs.

Now, that is the meaning of this word "POOR" used here in the beatitudes..

and
The Lord showed me something, here, that I want to share with you. Most of us do not realize our beggarly position, spiritually, and thus, we never see much happen with the Lord.

"BLESSED ARE THE BEGGARS IN SPIRIT.....BEGGARS,...totally unable to meet your needs. You cannot do a thing to meet your spiritual needs. Totally without means....

Note, do you see the problem? Most of us believe we can. That there is something we can do to solve our own separation from God. And that is one of the ~~reasons~~ ^{reason} why nothing happens, spiritually, in our lives.

"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE BEGGARS," spiritually....People who know they are unable to meet their needs, spiritually....IT IS A FANTASTIC PRINCIPLE....

Let me emphasize it another way. The manner in which one is poor is called "IN SPIRIT." Not in goods...not in possessions...^{but} BUT IN SPIRIT. Not in the physical realm, but in the spiritual realm. POOR IN SPIRIT....in mental attitude....Do you see?

O.K?...WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT. Here is what it means...

(1) Number one, if you are really poor in spirit you know that you have no ability to save yourself. None what soever. And the person who does not come to that point of realization, that he cannot save himself, will never be saved.

Oh, he may hope so....He may think ~~so~~ ^{go}.....He may try to ~~work it out~~.. But, his whole religion will be based on human ~~good~~ ^{works} and not upon God. There is no ability to save yourself when you are poor in Spirit.

(2) Secondly, when you are poor in Spirit you have no ability to satisfy your deepest needs.

And the Lord really put his finger into my life ~~when~~ I realized how often I go out and try to satisfy ~~my~~ ^{my} deep needs.

You see, basically, we all believe that we can satisfy our spiritual needs. Our American philosophy raises us believing that. And God is saying, "BLESSED ARE THE BEGGARS IN SPRITI." ^{You are} Blessed, when you realize you cannot satisfy your spiritual needs. When you realize that, then you are in a position to really experience God.....

[Redacted text]

To Be poor in spirit means that you have

(3) Third, no ability to solve your real problems. Oh, the problems we have today are enormous. Did you know that one of the keys in solving those problems is realizing you cannot?

So many of us operate our lives according to the Old sin nature which tries to ~~solve~~ ^{Solve} them. We go to anyone and anything trying to solve the problems we face. But, if you are poor in spirit, you know that you cannot solve your problems.

The question then..is..what do I do?...Stay with me in this series and God will answer that ^{question} ~~Christ~~. Of course if you miss a message you might miss God's answer to that question...

To Be poor in spirit means you have

(4) Fourth, no ability to stimulate your growth in ChristYou know, there are a lot of principles in God's Word which tell me how to grow in grace and knowledge. There are a lot of them. And when I apply them to my life, I grow in Christ---Resulting in a better fuller life.

But, when I believe that I can do it, or I can grow by using the philosophies of the world, then I fail. You cannot stimulate your growth. Blessedness comes because it depends on God. It does not depend on circumstances or my ability. I cannot stimulate my christian growth. God ~~must~~ cause growth in me..And he does ^{not} through the application of His word in my life.

To Be poor in spirit means that you have

(5) Number five, no ability to serve Christ in your own strength.

He who is poor in spirit knows that it is impossible to serve Christ, ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ones own strength. Whether you be ~~sunday~~ ^{sunday} school teacher, board member, or what ever, it is impossible to serve christ if you are doing it in your own strength. Oh, I may cloud over my conscious and look at the results and be result orientated, and concluded that because of the results I am serving Christ....

and

But, one day at the judgement seat of Christ ~~I feel that~~ we shall wake up and see that all of that which we have said was service for him was nothing. It was simple wood, hay, and grass because it was centered in human self and not in the power of God. It was based upon what I can do for Christ. Not upon what He can do through me.

when you are poor in spirit you realize that you have

No ability to serve Christ in your own strength.

(6) And number 6, which I feel is the most important of all, no ability to stand before God. You know, a lot of us as Christians, because we know that we are going to heaven get quite cocky about it...We really do.. Almost to the point of self satisfaction and conceit.

No ability to stand before God. Recognizing His Holiness is so fantastic. Realizing that my righteousness is like filthy rags. And thus being thankful, with gratitude for the righteousness of Christ which covers my sin and my unworthiness.

Blessed are the ^{poor} ~~poor~~ in spirit. Those who are really broken..

Two passages I would like you to turn to, *which illustrates what we are discussing*

First, James 4. I believe this expresses what it means to be poor in spirit. James chapter 4 verse 6-10.....(read)

~~Then, in Isaiah chapter 66 and vs 2.....Isaiah 66:2....~~

So, To be poor in spirit is definitely to be humble and to be broken to the point where I realize there is no ability in me what so ever to do any thing. To save my self, to serve God, I cannot do anything. I need ^{Jesus} in my life, and the Bible says that the one who recognizes that is "blessed."

Once I heard a pastor share with others that the real ^{dividing} point between ~~people of the world~~ ^{Christians - and Non - Christians} were those who knew they were nothing and those who thought they were something....

Have you ever wondered why God blesses some and not others? Some ^{folks} know and understand and believe in their hearts as Christians ~~that~~ that they are nothing and they recognize the grace of God.....Blessed are the poor

^{That is our matter} in spirit. ~~for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.~~

Secondly,

~~Isa~~ Isa 66:2) - *Turn There, please*

" This verse really speaks to my heart....."to this man will I look."
" Lord, to whom are you going to look with favor?...I will look to him
who is of a poor and a contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word.

I would like to suggest to you that being poor in spirit is not
writting a book on hummilite.....

It is not walking out of the service and standing in the parking lot
with a sad expression and crying hoping that people will be impressed,
with how much of a broken spirit you have.

Remember that our Lord taught that when you fast, when you pray,
do it in your closet. And when you appear before men: comb your hair,
wash your face and smile and be considerate of one another.

When your heart is broken you make it between you and God..Don't
go out and try to express the world with how broken in spirit you are.
That is nothing but the old sin nature desiring to be seen *of men*.

No, the true broken and contrite heart is the one that is broken
before God. Because he realizes that his relationship with God is far
more important than all of his contacts with men.

You can go and be petic and spiritual before men, but the issue
is what are you like in the closet before almighty God? What do you
really believe about yourself....

Blessed The poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

So) The Position that is involved is simply stated as being ["] blessed. ["]

And this will involve your reaction to other people, and problems and
to circumstances in your life. ^o And it means *one thing* that if you are
really broken in your life, *you are a beggar*, ~~your spirit has been broken~~ and you realize
that you are totally helpless before God and you need him, then all of
these circustances, and people will not effect the peace and the joy
you have.

for Happiness

Why?....Because your dependence is upon God. It is not on man or circumstance...

out

(2) Secondly, you realize there isn't anything you can do about it anyway. You know, all these situations we run into and we get uptight with people, and the problems we face, there really isn't anything we can do about it. Oh, you can wipe it over. But it is still there. Only, God can really solve things and bring healing and love. And all of our running about trying to solve our problems is revealing all the more how little we are "poor in spirit." And how proud in spirit we really are.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for their is the kingdom of heaven. No ability of my own...only God's ability.

(3) And the third thing is in your response to God. Those who are poor in spirit know that only God can answer them. No one else can. And God never gets tired of my asking for his will and help. Help Lord, I need you in my life.

III

You We Care To ~~the~~ finally the promise....For their is the kingdom of heaven.

Now, this is talking about christian people. The condition of ~~there~~ ^{our} life is blessed. ^{Understand what it means to be} Those christians who ~~are~~ ^{are in a} poor in spirit, ~~are in a~~ ^{are in a} blessed condition, ~~for~~ ^{for} them is the kingdom of heaven.

out

Did you notice in the text that all of the beatitudes are in the future tense except the first one and the last one, in term of promise. For theirs is....all the rest are: "for they shall be"....And these shall be's are simple statments of fact. And God encloses all these beatitudes in that simple statement: "For their is the kingdom of heaven."

^{This phrase} Now, what does ~~be~~ mean? Two things...

(1) One, we are in the kingdom ^{of God} the moment we are saved. And the kingdom of God is something I am born into the moment I accept Christ. (2) ~~Two~~ ^{Two}, also, it refers to that visuable Kingdom that will come in the furture.

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But, the kingdom of God is God's rule over me. So I enter the kingdom of God by being born again. Jesus said the kingdom of God is in the midst of you. And this is referring to His person....I am here. And when the king is here, the kingdom of God is here.

When you receive Christ, the king is in you. And where the king is there is the kingdom. Thus, we ought to be like that servant, at ~~his~~ feet saying, Lord, I have no authority of my own. What would you have me to do. Not my will but thine be done. You are the king of king and the Lord of Lord. Be king in my life.

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

Let us close with prayer

Your position = is blessed
on behalf of ~~be~~
your practice = poor in spirit and all that that means
Thompson = you will experience the Kingdom of Heaven right now, in your life, day by day and all the rewards that go with it.

Let's Close in Prayer