

**The Beatitudes**  
**God's Keys to True Happiness**  
**Matthew 5:1-12**

**Introduction:**

- Within every human being, there is a desire for happiness, gladness, and joy. It's not there by accident. God created us that way.
- Beatitudes – Latin for a state of happiness, bliss. Jesus offers the possibility of being genuinely happy
- Makarios – happy, fortunate, blissful
- Paradox - Word says Get, Jesus says give; Push to be first, Permit yourself to be last; Independence, dependence
- “You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and new wine abound.” Ps 4:7

**I. The Poor in Spirit.**

- This is not a call to a vow of financial poverty. Although, God does have a heart to comfort the suffering including those who suffer because of their financial poverty.
  - This speaks of those who are poor in Spirit. Spiritually poor.
1. **To be poor in spirit is to recognize that we are spiritually destitute.**
    - The Poor woman who gave her two coins versus the poor beggar named Lazarus
    - Ptochos – to shrink, cower, cringe, crouched in a corner begging
    - complete dependent on others
    - Meager Means vs nothing
  2. **To be poor in spirit is to take on a position of humility.**
    - “But this is the one to whom I will look; he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. Isaiah 66:2b
    - Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you. James 4:10
  3. **To be poor in spirit is to reach out to God for help.**
    - Self-sufficient versus desperate for God
    - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16
    - Revelation 3:15-18: Refusal to recognize one condition hence a refusal to accept God's provision.

**Luke 18:9-14**

- Trusting in your own spiritual account vs realizing your account is empty
- Pride versus humility
- Self-sufficient versus desperate for God's help

**Where does the happiness come from?**

- Cure for the joy killers of low self-esteem and self-pride - Not lower self-esteem (consumed by faults), turn eyes from self to Jesus. Forget about ourself and look to him. Jesus becomes precious! (1 Timothy 1:15)
- God's Help
- Assurance of Heaven

**Application**

- Listed 1<sup>st</sup> among the beatitudes because the first thing we must do is recognize our own spiritual need, humble ourselves and ask God to help.
- Are you relying on your own spiritual accomplishments and goodness to make you right with God or do you recognize your spiritual bankruptcy and cling to God's grace alone?
- When you stand before God in judgment are you expecting to list out all the things you done confident that will be enough to get you in to heaven?
- I'm pleading bankruptcy and trusting in God's bail out plan, Jesus and His blood?

