

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ SoM: Beatitudes, Part 1

Last time...the overview (Big Picture) of the Sermon on the Mount
The Constitution of the Kingdom of God...God's world view

<i>Ante-Nicene Fathers</i> , Volume 1, (not inspired)	pgs 23-24 pg 25, Ch 1 pg 27-28, Ch 7	context new form worship vs Ch 2-3 Author of Christianity
--	--	---

This time...the Beatitudes
As is the King (Author), so should be the citizens of the Kingdom of God

Matt 5:3

v3 Looking at the meanings of the words of God...the pieces:

Blessed: a state of being

- happy, oh so happy
- fortunate

poor: a state of being (contrary to "Blessed" in man's worldview)

- a beggar, a pauper...internal and external (Luke 6:20)
- an empty-handed outcast
- an oppressed or distressed soul vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, utterly dependent upon God for help
- broken and humbled, finally seeing that God is their only hope

in spirit: a modifying description of "poor"

- God's breath in a man (Gen 2:7)
- born dead (Gen 2:17)
- aware
 - something is terribly wrong...broken
 - themselves, their nature, their world view
 - their relationship with the Creator
 - are helpless to make it right and need God's help
 - bitterly acknowledge their spiritual poverty/bankruptcy/filthiness

marked contrast to "poor in spirit": pride (regardless of economic status)

Prov 6:16-19

this Beatitude belongs NOT to the proud but to the humble

is: the verb, describing existence or action
present tense, exists in time
today, already, right now

spoken almost 2000 years ago
still recorded in the written Word of God today

later today becomes...now
tomorrow becomes...today, now
time is a flow

When does "is" cease to be "is"?
At the end of time...eternity (Rev 20-21)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven...
right now and forever (into eternity)

So..."is" is a very big and important word used by Jesus!

kingdom of heaven:
used 32x in Gospel of Matthew (written to Jews) but nowhere else in NT

OT/Jewish concept of heaven: where God dwells and rules over the earth

Now, the Kingdom of heaven is as broad, as wide, and as deep as the
King, Jesus Christ vs as narrow as Judaism, a religion of man

Looking at both sides of the colon...the parts

poor in spirit – as is the King, so should be the citizens of the Kingdom of God

King Jesus

Ps 72:4, 11-14

Heb 2:14-18

2 Cor 8:9

2 Sam 22:1-8, 18-28

King is the son of David

How the King will deliver the poor
why

David the shadow of the Son of David
afflicted = poor

Citizens of the Kingdom

Is 6:1-7

Is 57:17

Is 66:1-2

Ps 51:4-17

Ps 34:18

Luke 18:9-14

Matt 15:21-28

undone, broken, poor in spirit

agreeing with how God sees us
so poor in spirit, only need crumbs

“Poor in spirit” is like the gate to the Kingdom...
no one enters unless they are broken and humbled

Conflict and tension: American culture vs God’s culture

- We refuse to use anything that is broken...we throw away broken things and relationships that will require too much money, time, or effort to fix

God refuses to use anything that is not broken...He can fix anything, any relationship, and anyone

- We chase after the American Dream (and the Joneses)... in reality, a nightmare and a cruel taskmaster

In God’s economy, instead of worldly wealth,
poverty (of spirit) is to be coveted (1 Cor 12:31)
Rather than “living the dream” here and now, we wait for the Greater Reality

theirs is the kingdom of heaven

God’s promised Kingdom is both for right now and for the future,
fulfilled in part now and then literally and completely in the future,
in the Person and work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Kingdom of heaven = Kingdom of God
the Creator God Who transcends His creation (time)

The Kingdom of heaven is

- inner, spiritual (Luke 17:21)
how I/we/Bride see and think about everything
(hence, 2 Cor 6:14-18)
- in history, on earth (John 17:20-24)
now: The Church (3rd people group)
future: literal

Finally, looking at the whole...

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

The Kingdom of heaven has invaded history/time and is open right now to the poor in spirit because, and only because, of the Person and work of the King

- fulfilled the Law, the righteousness of God
- died on the Cross, the acceptable sin sacrifice, fulfilling Scripture
- ministry of reconciliation resulting in a newness of life and a new relationship (2 Cor 5:17-21)
- making children of God/citizens of the kingdom (Phil 3:20) from
 - sinners/enemies (Eph 2:1-10)
 - whosoever would believe/trust in and unconditionally surrender to the King
 - those who responded to the King's invitation to
 - "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - in Luke 4:18-19 quoting Is 61:1-2
 - "Come out of her, My people."

Jesus is "calling us out"... "Come out of her (USA and the world), My people."

Entrance into the Kingdom of heaven requires seeing ourselves as we really are and seeing the Lord as He really is

Result: brokenness and humility

"Woe is me!" i.e. poverty of spirit (Is 6:5)

"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8)

Those who see themselves and the Lord in truth are blessed – they will seek the Lord's help and will enter into the Kingdom of heaven

Have you ever failed so miserably that you just want to crawl under a rock?

Like Peter after denying Jesus three times?

Have you ever bankrupted your own standard of morality by doing something you said and thought you would never do?

Like David with Bathsheba and Uriah, one of his faithful mighty men?

Have you ever felt so despondent that you wonder, “What’s the use?”

Like Job

Job 10:1 I am weary of my life (in bitterness of his soul)

Job 17:11-16 “Where is now my hope?”

Like Jonah

Jonah 4:8 wished to die, “better for me to die than to live”

Like Elijah

1 Kings 19:4 requested for himself that he might die,
“It is enough Lord, take away my life.”

Like a citizen of the world

Eph 2:12 having no hope, without God in the world

Have you ever felt so shattered that you didn’t even know where to begin to pick up the pieces of your life?

Like Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus?

(from doing God’s work to persecuting God)

Have you ever felt so distressed that all you can do is groan?

Like the Apostle Paul in Rom 7

Have you ever felt so filthy that you cannot even breathe?

Like Israel will soon

Ezk 36:16-32

If so, Good News...in the pieces, the parts, and the whole!

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for yours is the kingdom of heaven!!!!

Gospel invitation