

“Poor In Spirit” - Matthew 5:3
June 6, 2010

Matthew 5:3 (Amplified) *Blessed (happy and spiritually prosperous--with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of outward conditions) are the poor in spirit (the humble), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!*

A. “Beatitude” – *beauty*; Latin trans *to make happy*.

1. **“Blessed”** – Greek *Makarios*: joy contained within itself, independent of all the circumstance.

B. BLESSING: *The pleasures of God that satisfy the soul.*

Psalm 16:11 *You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

C. MESSAGE: *God never intended us to remain poor in spirit, but we have to start there.*

D. “Poor in spirit” – We must begin by declaring our *spiritual bankruptcy*; total dependence on God’s grace.

1. Humility – seeing ourselves as God sees us; accurate appraisal according to God’s Word.
2. Pride – self-absorption; filling our life with thinking too highly, or too lowly of ourselves.
3. Tax collector & Pharisee - Luke 18

E. Our Inheritance: We are sons and daughters in the kingdom of heaven with unlimited spiritual resources.

F. Application: Where is pride crowding out humility in your life? In your “kingdom” (domain)?

Declare spiritual “bankruptcy” & receive the riches of God!

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DNA Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer: Father, open our hearts and minds to perceive and receive spiritual truth.

Getting acquainted:

1. What experiences have you had with the Beatitudes?
2. What are the obstacles we face in getting to the truth of this passage that Jesus wants us to see?
3. Describe a time in your life when you felt rich, or poor. What does poverty mean to you?

Digging In:

1. Read Matthew 5:1-3
2. Define in your own words “poor in spirit.”
3. What do you think the crowd thought when Jesus opened with “Blessed are the poor in spirit”?
4. Respond to Pastor Stan’s premise that God never intended us to *remain* poor in spirit? Gen. 1:26-31
5. What does it mean to inherit the kingdom of heaven?
6. Why does Jesus point us to children? Matthew 18:3
7. Pastor Stan spoke of pride as self-absorption – filling our life with thinking too highly, or too lowly of ourselves. Where would you fall on that continuum? Why?
8. If humility is seeing ourselves with spiritual accuracy, the way God sees us, how does He see you? What gets in the way of seeing yourself the way He does? Ephesians 2:1-10

Wrapping Up: Based on God’s truth, what do you believe you need to do in response? What does declaring “spiritual bankruptcy” mean for you?

Prayer: Pray for one another’s needs.