

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 19, 2022

“Living the Beatitudes: The Poor in Spirit”

Matthew 5:3; Luke 18:9-14

The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete description anywhere in the NT of the Christian _____.

The Sermon on the Mount describes the _____ and the righteousness that belongs to the Kingdom; and what human life and community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God.

blessed = *makarios* =

The fullest meaning of the word has to do with an inward _____ and a state of inner joy and well-being that doesn't depend on our physical _____. But rather comes from rightly relating to God and responding to His _____.

poor = *ptochos* =

poor = *penichros* =

Jesus isn't speaking about material poverty here, but rather _____ poverty.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: 3 QUESTIONS

Question #1: _____?

To be in poor in spirit is to recognize one's spiritual poverty—to see oneself as _____, hopeless, helpless _____ from God.

The poor in spirit are those who recognize their total spiritual _____ and their complete _____ on God. They know they have no saving resources in themselves, but can only _____ for mercy and grace. They know they have no spiritual _____, and they know they can't earn any spiritual reward. Their pride is gone, their self-assurance is gone, and they stand empty-handed before God.

‘in spirit’ also conveys the sense that the recognition of poverty is _____, and not an act.

“But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite of spirit, who trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:2)

Israelites who were spiritually _____ knew they needed God's power to keep God's law. In humility, they _____ their helplessness and pleaded for His mercy and strength.

“Be gracious to me, O God, according to your loving kindness; according to the greatness of your compassion blot out my transgressions... For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.” (Psalm 51:1, 3)

Other Israelites took a different approach to the Law. Knowing they couldn't fulfill its demands, they simply brought the Law down to a level that was more _____ and acceptable.

Humility is the _____ of all other graces, and is a basic element in becoming a Christian. _____ has no part in God's kingdom, and until a person surrenders their pride, they can't enter the kingdom.

We cannot be filled until we're _____; we cannot be made worthy until we _____ our unworthiness; we cannot live until we admit we're dead. We cannot _____ the Christian life, without humility, and we cannot live the Christian life with pride.

“Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.” (Prov 16:5)

Question #2: _____?

Almost by definition, the answer to this question can't start with _____, or with anything we can do or accomplish in our own power. Nor does it involve _____.

The fulfillment of this goal depends on God's _____, gracious work of humbling and not our own. It's all about _____.

It's a combined effort, and God's sovereign saving work is never without our cooperation. We bring the _____ and God brings _____ power!

3 STEPS TO EXPERIENCING HUMILITY FROM THE HUMAN SIDE

Step #1. _____.

“...let us lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Step #2. _____.

“...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how

to gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Romans 13:14)

Step #3. _____

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”
(Psalm 51:10)

Question #3: _____?

7 PRINCIPLES TO DETERMINE HUMILITY

#1. If we're humble we'll be _____ from _____.

“*My soul is like a weaned child* with in me.” (Psalm 131:2)

One who is poor in spirit loses their _____.

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

#2. Humility will lead us to be lost in the _____ of Christ.

“...with unveiled faces beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,...being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Our satisfaction will be in the prospect of one day being fully in the _____ of Jesus.

#3. We won't _____ about our situation, no matter how bad life gets because we know we deserve _____ than anything we can experience in this life.

When our _____ is for Christ's sake we not only won't complain or feel ashamed, but we'll actually _____ God for it, trusting what we read in Romans 8:18:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

#4. We'll see more clearly both the strengths and _____ of others, as well as our own weaknesses and _____.

We will, as Paul says in Philippians 2:3 with “_____ of mind” “regard others as more _____ than ourselves” and in Romans 12:10,

will “give _____ to one another in honour.”

#5. We'll spend much more time in _____.

Just as the physical beggar begs for physical _____, the spiritual beggar begs for _____ food. Being poor in spirit will cause us to _____ often at heaven's door because we know that we're always in _____.

#6. We'll take Christ on His _____, not on our own.

We won't try to have Christ while keeping our _____, pleasures, and immorality. We won't modify His _____ by church traditions or by our own _____ and desires.

In the words of the BCP, we'll _____ all that we are—“ourselves, our souls, and our bodies as a reasonable, holy, and living _____ to God.”

His _____ alone will be our standard.

#7. When we're poor in spirit, we'll _____ and _____ God for His grace.

Nothing characterizes the humble believer more than abounding _____ for what God has done for them in Jesus

In the words of 1 Timothy 1:14, they know that God's grace is “more than _____, with the _____ and love which are found in Christ Jesus.”

†

“Don't be afraid little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

“For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, ‘I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly in spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and revive the heart of the contrite.’” (Isaiah 57:15)

God wants us to recognize our own _____, so that He can make us _____. He wants us to recognize our own _____, so that He can _____ us up.

“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (James 4:10)

In giving up their own kingdom, the poor in spirit inherit God's.