



Blessed is the Poor in Spirit

This is the first of the beatitudes. It all starts with this as the beginning point.

Remember:

These are not future blessings but present reality
Christ followers are filled with joy

A contrast to the majority of the rabbis
who gave a negative diet of gloom and
doom

The blessedness runs counter to our culture
This is not Chicken Soup for the Soul, but
rather the way of life for a citizen of the
kingdom

1. The first beatitude has nothing to do with _____
- the Jews viewed wealth as a sign of divine favor
2. This is a condition of the heart and how one views _____.
This is an attitude. It is to be bankrupt.

The word Jesus uses here (Ptochos) means to be absolutely destitute. It's worse than the bare minimum. It is to have nothing.

- Most of us have no idea what this is like physically. Some of us started out poor, but we always ate and had a place to sleep at night. We always had resources to get us through.
- The word here is one who has nothing, absolutely nothing.
It is Lazarus who was dumped at the rich man's gate (Lk 16:20-21)
It is the woman with the issue of blood who had spent all that she had (Mk 5:26)

3. The bankruptcy is "in spirit."

- This is what a man _____, not what he _____
- Here is a person who realizes that he is ruined spiritually. He's lost it all. He fell short (Rom 3:23)
- He's lost, Hell bound and he can't do anything about it
- This person sees sin as it really is. It's death. And, he is to blame for this condition.

Spurgeon: "The way to rise in the kingdom is to sink in ourselves."

4. The other beatitudes do not matter if one does not realize that without God he has _____

Isa 64:6 We are unclean and our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment

Lk 18:13 "God be merciful to me, the sinner"

"Amazing Grace, that saved a wretch like me..."

- We must:**
- See our sins as God _____
 - Point our finger at _____
 - Demonstrate our dependence upon God

5. This beatitude is about how we see ourselves. It is the opposite of pride, arrogance and independence.

- This is a quality and characteristic that we carry all of our lives

• The Laodicean church was not like this (Rev 3:17)

6. Such a person is "blessed" because such is the kingdom of Heaven

- this is the same expression as the beatitude on persecution (v. 10)
- such a person will come humbly and thankfully to the Lord

7. The kingdom of Christ is not composed of the rich, proud and mighty, but the broken, the feeble, the spiritual needy. The kingdom is made up of those who will listen, follow and be obedient to Christ.

8. The rich Jesus became poor so we might be _____ (2 Cor 8:9)

Lk 9:24 "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."

James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Ps 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit."