



#1 Introduction – “The Poor in Spirit”

Textual Context:

“He [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming *the gospel of the kingdom* and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.... Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he *sat down*, his disciples came to him.² And he *opened his mouth* and taught them...” Matthew 4:23, 25 & 5:1-2

- The Gospel of the KINGDOM

“The rule, reign, and saving sovereignty of God had arrived on earth in the person of King Jesus.”

- Detail #1: Jesus “SAT Down”

“What Jesus was about to teach was central & essential to our understanding of life in the Kingdom of God”

- Detail #2: Jesus OPENED His Mouth”

“Jesus is opening his heart & mind to reveal to us the reality of life in God’s Kingdom.”

The Beatitudes:

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5: 1-12 [ESV]

“Blessed” = Greek = μακάριος = Makarios = Happy/Fortunate/ Lucky – “Congratulations!”

What the Beatitudes ARE NOT.

#1. A List of VIRTUES

#2. A List of COMMANDS

#3. A List of PROVERBS

"The Beatitudes pronounce blessing not on the powerful, wealthy, or secure, but on those who mourn, the meek, and the persecuted — redefining the good life through the lens of God's now but not yet Kingdom."
~Matthew Kelly~

What the Beatitudes ARE:

#1. An INVITATION

"So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'" Luke 14: 19-20

#2. A PROMISE

"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."
~NT Wright~

#3. A COMMISSIONING

"Jesus was announcing a program yet to be completed. He was inviting his hearers, then and now, to join him in making it happen. This is quite simply what it looks like when Jesus is enthroned."
~NT Wright~

Life Group Questions

Read Matthew 5:1-12

- When you see a social media post with #blessed, what's your immediate gut reaction? (joy, envy, gratitude, annoyance?) What factors does your response depend upon?
- After hearing this week's sermon, how would you describe "poverty of spirit" in your own words?

Read Luke 14:12-24

- How does this relate to the beatitudes being an invitation?
- Describe a time when you felt especially poor in spirit—a time when you were keenly aware of your need for God. Looking back, how did that recognized weakness open your eyes more to God's grace or presence?
- Why do you think the promised reward for the "poor in spirit" is the kingdom of heaven now?
- In what specific areas of your daily routine (work, family, personal struggles) do you find it hardest to practice absolute dependence on God?

Read Revelation 21:1-4

- How does this relate to the future promises of the Beatitudes? Does this passage give you hope? Why? Why not?

Source: Tyler Staton – "The Beatitudes" – Bridgetown Church
N. T. Wright – Surprised by Hope
William Barclay – Gospel of Matthew

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