

Study of Matthew

Matthew 5:1 – 3

May 8, 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Where do you see self-sufficiency in your life? Where does the Kingdom of God need to manifest itself in your life?

TODAY: Matthew 5:1 – 3

Happy Mother's Day.... Oh that I had listened more to my Mother's wisdom.

Many times the crowds are hanging around Jesus, not to find truth but to receive temporary blessings (like loaves & fishes or to see a miracle). So Jesus moves up to a higher place (a mountain) There are times that Jesus calls us to a higher place because HE desires that we learn a deeper truth. It is no longer about temporary needs but spiritual truth that will sustain us.

Note it was the disciples that came and sat down. The instructions that are to follow are for those who have already responded to the proclamation of the Good News of the Kingdom and now they need to learn what Life in the Kingdom looks like. Christ now calls those who would be God's people to stand out as different from those around them.

What a strange way to express the fact that someone is teaching in vs. 2 *"HE opened HIS mouth...."*

Oh, the powerful opportunity to be in a place where Christ will open HIS mouth and we hear HIS purpose and plans.

This week at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Ken Helser stood after HIS son ministered and said, *"When everything crumbles, do not despair. I will take the broken pieces and make new and better that which was lost."*

That word resonates in this sermon...Jesus opens HIS mouth...HE takes broken humanity and gives them new and better!

1. Right Thinking

Christ announces to those who are disciples, those who will follow their teacher, those who want to learn; that there is a new way of thinking and acting in HIS Kingdom. Those who think and live this way are blessed.

To be blessed is to be fortunate or prosperous; it is to be characterized by the quality of God. It is to be fully satisfied, not based on our circumstances but due to Christ indwelling presence.

- A commendation and congratulations is in order due to a person being in a good situation. It is a place of envy or a place to be envied!

It is more than happy, although there is a happiness associated with it. Blessed transcends what happens around me! You can be happy because life is going good, but you can only be blessed if you have Christ abiding in your life.

The indwelling Christ, through the Holy Spirit, brings a fundamental satisfaction to one's life and it is called, BLESSED! It is a present state of being, a present quality of life, BLESSED!

2. Recognize Position (vs. 3a)

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? The danger with this phrase is to associate it with modern day thinking of poverty and being financially poor. Words / phrases has a denotation (literal meaning) and then connotations (thoughts or meanings associated with it) This word poor is a great example. It means to be a beggar or a pauper; it implies being needy and lacking in anything. When one is poor that are lacking in specific resources.

But what is poor in spirit? It describes those who are not spiritually arrogant. It is opposite of being haughty and self-sufficient.

Poor in Spirit is the opposite of what the world admires and praises; it is not the independent and defiant attitude that refuses to bow to God. Yet, it does not mean a man is weak but humble. Jesus was a strong man that used a whip, called people snakes and sons of satan yet willing to ride a colt.

To be poor in spirit is to realize that I have a deficient problem. Instead of being arrogant because of what I have, I humble myself before God acknowledging my helplessness. With all that I have and can do, I am still powerless and without hope. Without God, I have a spiritual poverty issue!

3. God's Rulership (3b)

The Kingdom represents God's rule, God's reign and God's right in our lives!

We are to pray, thy kingdom come, thy will be done. But before Jesus teaches the Disciples to pray that prayer, HE says, the poor in spirit are blessed because theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven...maybe just maybe instead of just repeating, thy Kingdom come as if it will come in some wild manifestation, maybe it starts with hallowing, revering HIS name and acknowledging my helplessness and then the Kingdom reveals itself in my life!

Today, my challenge to you is, get in a place where Jesus can be heard and recognize your poverty of spirit and watch the Kingdom of Heaven begin to manifest itself in your life.