Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Matt. 5:3a

The Beatitudes are the most foundational spiritual principles ever put together. They begin with a formula for success applicable on every level of life, whether spiritual or every day. I have always found it interesting and most significant that Jesus begins with the words **"Blessed are the poor in spirit."** Throughout the ages theologians and biblical scholars have reduced this basic formula for living to a purely spiritual interpretation, removing its practical impact on people's lives years later.
Jesus understood that the human mindset would not change. He understood that the human mindset would remain the same, and the same disposition needed in His day would be needed over two thousand years later.

The world has not changed as far as the human condition is concerned. We have made massive advancements in technology and warfare, with stealth jets, undetectable submarines, and space exploration. We have probed outer space and broken the sound barriers several times over. With all of these advancements in technology and exploration, little has changed in our inner world.
We remain people who pursue our agendas. We continue to pursue personal agendas, seeking satisfaction at the expense of others.
Jesus understood that the only way anyone could change was if they were changed from the inside. It had to take place from the inside to

alter one's perspective on life. This was the only way lasting change could be realized.

In the days of Jesus, the world was driven by pride and material gain. Little has changed. We seek change externally, which results in only temporary success. Because the change we seek comes from the outside, from the external world. This is why the Beatitude **"Blessed are the poor in spirit,"** is fundamental to our humanity. Being poor in spirit did not refer to material poverty. Jesus was addressing a state of mind. Jesus was asking us to realize our limitations. Jesus was asking us to recognize our limitations, understand that we don't have all the answers, and accept our dependence on God.

It's a truth we need to understand daily, not just in our moments of need. When Jesus said, **"Blessed are the poor in spirit,"** He was saying that those who surrender their hearts and minds to God find joy. This surrender allows us to align with the kingdom of God and His will.

The kingdom of God is where God rules and Jesus is Lord. The kingdom of God isn't found in a physical location but in the hearts and minds of those who choose to surrender to His rule. Their surrender is not forced, it is not borne of shame or fear but out of a love and willingness to serve and live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The kingdom of God is where the values of God are embraced. The values of love, justice, mercy, and the grace of God and humanity are lived out. The kingdom of God is where the rule of Christ reigns and governs every decision, every relationship, and every action. This submission is different and more powerful than any other because it

is given of our own volition, and choice. It comes from a transformed life, a transformed heart and mind. It is not from a broken spirit or guilt. When we confess our sins out of guilt it is not the same as confessing out of love.

To confess sins out of guilt is necessary. However, it only relieves us of the burden of guilt. Again, this is needful. To confess out of love, however, is a more transcendent place for our spirits to reside. To confess out of love is to **desire and pursue reconciliation.** It says we no longer want to damage our relationship with God. It is a proactive place that attempts to live above guilt and embrace the grace given to us by God.

When we surrender to God we align ourselves with God's peace and a contentment that cannot be found anywhere else. In the state of surrender, God's purpose often unfolds gradually, not in dramatic ways, but through small, steady steps that shape our lives. "**Blessed are the poor in spirit**," for God truly opens up the kingdom of heaven to them.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool