

Podcast Episode Notes
S8 Ep 2 Have You Ever Felt Poor in Spirit?

Every one of us has felt poor in spirit at one time or another. You might call it helpless, hopeless, desperate, broken or even just needy. We might consider that weak or pitiful, but in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is saying, "Congratulations! If you are broken, you are blessed." What does He mean by that?

Scripture References

The Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit...

1. It speaks first of the need for humility in our lives – a true recognition of our desperate need for God!
 - i. "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." ~ Pro. 16:18
 - ii. "Humility comes before honor" ~ Pro. 15:33
 - iii. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." ~ 1 Peter 5:6
 2. Second, it speaks to the condition of people who can receive the Kingdom of Heaven: those feeling helpless, hopeless, needy, as well as devoid of worth and value. This first truth of the Sermon on the Mount is not aimed at those "on top of the world", rather it is aimed at the most needy among us!
- 2) What is "Poor in Spirit"?
1. First of all, the word "Blessed" here can mean "congratulations" or it can also mean "approved".
 2. The thought here is simply, "blessed are the broken". This is God's opinion! Poor in spirit speaks of our neediness, our human spirit being impoverished. Not being able to make it on our own before God or man.
 3. God isn't looking for the strong...He is looking for those who recognize their desperate need for Him! Those who are so spiritually impoverished that they have nothing to offer anyone, "Congratulations, if you are broken, you are blessed!"
 4. If you realize that you are poor in spirit, it means God has revealed this to you.
 5. It also means that He is present for you! He sees your lowness of heart and soul and says, "come to me, all of you that are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest!" (Matthew 11:28)
 6. Charles Spurgeon: "The way to rise in the Kingdom is to sink in ourselves."

A. Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven

- 1) The promise of the Kingdom is yours!
- 2) Relationship with God – now and for all eternity.
- 3) A journey into wholeness – the fullness of our salvation...
- 4) Reflecting God's character and walking in His ways – revealed in Heaven...
- 5) Relationship with others in the community of the Kingdom.
- 6) God's provision, protection, leading and guiding...
- 7) God's presence with you always...
- 8) God fulfilling His purposes through your life purpose, etc.

Learn more about this topic in Chapter 10 of A Discipleship Journey: A Proven and Practical Tool for Making Disciples which is Lionshare's primarily discipleship resource. It's available at Lionshare.org/store. To learn more about our ministry, go to Lionshare.org to discover our discipleship tools for adults and kids. Check out the podcasts page to find episode notes.

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