

This is one who is in absolute and abject poverty; he has nothing at all and no ability to get anything. This is the word Jesus used.

iii. Ani (Hebrew)

This word came to mean, one who is destitute and oppressed and who, therefore, throws himself upon the mercy of God.

What is poverty of spirit? It is the realization that I have no righteousness of my own and the willingness to be saved by the free grace of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV - (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

B. Kingdom of Heaven

i. Rule - The Kingdom is the rule of God - where He rules and His will is done. The poor in spirit already have God's rule and His government within them. They are submitted to God's authority.

ii. Riches - The Kingdom includes the riches of God.

Rom 14:17 NKJV - (17) For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Position: Righteousness - state of being right with God, debts fully paid.

Possession: Peace - at rest regardless of circumstances

Expression: Joy -outflow of righteousness and peace is joy

iii. Reward - The Kingdom includes the realm of God - the reward at the end of life when the Kingdom becomes heaven; with all its glories.

Oh, the blessedness of those who realize their own spiritual poverty and put their trust in Jesus Christ, for at that moment of faith in Him they begin to live under God's rule, enjoy His riches and anticipate His reward.

THE BEATITUDES

Part 1 - Intro & Poor in Spirit

Debby Baril - March 29, 2009

www.destinychurch.ca 450 676 6944

I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5:1-2 NKJV - (1) And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. (2) Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Matthew 7:28-29 NKJV - (28) And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, (29) for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

A. CODE OF CONDUCT

Matthew chapters 5-7 contain the Sermon on the Mount which is the Christians Code of Conduct - it tells us how to live as Christians.

B. MOUNTAIN OF REVELATION

Matthew 17:1-2 NKJV - Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Exodus 3:1-2 NKJV - Moses and the burning bush.

Exodus 24:9-11 NLT - (9) Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel climbed up the mountain again. (10) There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as clear as the sky itself. (11) And though these nobles of Israel gazed upon God, he did not destroy them. In fact, they ate a covenant meal, eating and drinking in his presence!

In Exodus 20, God called Moses up to Mount Horeb where He revealed His holiness, His authority and Who He is. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments - the Code of Conduct for Israel - how they were to behave, how they were to live.

C. SEAT OF AUTHORITY

In Hebrew culture the physical posture of a Jewish rabbi while teaching officially is to be seated.

The Pope speaks from his cathedral seat “ex cathedra.”

When Jesus went up on the mountain and had taken his seat it was a vivid picture – Jesus was the new Moses over a new Israel delivering the Kingdom’s code of conduct.

Ephesians 1:20-23 NKJV – (20) which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (22) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2:4-6NKJV – (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

“Opened His mouth” in Greek “anoixsas to stoma” is used to preface something that is important and life-changing.

It also means “to come over and whisper.” It’s personal and intimate.

The Sermon on the Mount is both Jesus’ authoritative and official teachings and they are also the intimate, deep expressions of his heart.

II. THE BEATITUDES

Within the Sermon on the Mount we find the Beatitudes which contain Jesus’ definition of a Christian and characteristics of Kingdom people.

Matthew 5:3-10 NKJV - (3) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4)Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (5)Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (6)Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (7)Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (8)Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (9)Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (10) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A. BLESSED ARE THE...

Blessed - Makarios (Greek)

Ma – outflow, outcome, result

Kari – (chara) joy, (charis) grace

Os – the one (in whom)

A blessed person is the one in whom grace and joy always overflow.

Makarios/blessedness – describes a joy that has its secret within itself, that is serene, untouchable, self-contained, and completely independent of all the chances and changes of life.

The blessedness that Jesus speaks of in the beatitudes is not about some future state of what we will eventually be but of what we already have.

B. SEVEN QUALITIES OF BLESSEDNESS

1. Poor in Spirit - Kingdom of Heaven

A. Poor

i. Penes/Penia (Greek)

It refers to the one who must work for a living rather than having been born into a rich family. He takes his life into his own hands and doesn’t need any help from anyone.

ii. Ptochos (Greek)