

MATTHEW 5:1-11

- In this passage of scripture, Jesus is describing one person, that has these character traits.
- Jesus is essentially saying that a person is happy, if they have these traits.
- This is Jesus, teaching us how to be, “happy”.
- It would be safe to replace the word blessed with the word happy.

MATTHEW 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

- Jesus uses the words poor in spirit. What does this phrase mean?
1. Poor in spirit means that we realize that without Jesus, the human spirit is depraved, broken, corrupt, desperately wicked: see JEREMIAH 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”
 - As long as we think we’re OK without Jesus, we’re not poor in spirit.
 - Secular humanism teaches that all human beings are inherently good. This is not what the Bible teaches.
 2. Poor in spirit means not only acknowledging our need for Jesus for salvation but also that we need the mind of the Spirit.

ROMANS 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

ROMANS 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

1 CORINTHIANS 2:16(b) But we have the mind of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

3. Poor in spirit means that I’m not only willing to learn about Jesus but that I’m willing to let Jesus change my heart.
 - So many people have learnt so much about Jesus and the Bible but have never let Jesus change their hearts, through the power of His Holy Spirit
 - These people have learnt so much and have become educated beyond their level of obedience: 2 TIMOTHY 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- This hunger for knowledge only feeds the spirit of religion and empowers it to have a form of godliness, while denying it's power:

2 TIMOTHY 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away

4. Jesus declares that “theirs” is the Kingdom of heaven. He specifies that His Kingdom belongs to those who are poor in spirit. This means that if we’re not poor in spirit, the Kingdom of heaven is not ours!!!

5. The poor in spirit own the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of heaven is:

ROMANS 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

HOME CELL DISCUSSION

1. What does happiness mean to you? How is happiness different from being blessed, if there is a difference?
2. Discuss what it means to be poor in spirit, as per the 5 points from the sermon outline
3. How can a person measure themselves, to determine whether or not they are poor in spirit or not?
4. What kind of fruit will be seen in the life of someone poor in spirit?