

Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

Matthew 5:1-12 [NIV] *“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**”*

The opening verses of **Matthew 5** contain some of the most beautiful words in the whole of the Bible.

They are the introduction to the Sermon on the Mount.

A passage of Scripture so challenging in its directness, so clear in its teaching and setting such high standards that it leaves many Christians feeling defeated and unworthy, before they even try to obey these words of Jesus Christ.

Yet that was **not** the intention of Jesus.

The key to the whole sermon is found in the first Beatitude *‘Blessed are the poor in spirit’*.

A lifestyle described in the Beatitudes can only be achieved in the power of the Holy Spirit not our spirit.

That is why Jesus places this Beatitude right at the beginning of His sermon.

Unfortunately, much modern teaching places the emphasis on **our** efforts to try and live like this.

We can't!

God alone must receive the glory of fulfilling these characteristics in our personal lives.

For only God can reform our lives in such a way as described in these scriptures.

We all need a mighty anointing of the Holy Spirit, God in us, in these last days.

John 7:37-39 [NIV] *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”** By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

The wells of Living Water have been blocked with all sorts of religious rubbish, blocking the flow of Living Water that Jesus promises.

Genesis 26:18 [NIV] *“Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.”*

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to*

Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

It is only when we as individuals and corporately as a church come to the end of our own strength that God can really begin to fill us with the Holy Spirit and, by His grace, moulds us into His own likeness as listed in this scripture.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

We need to ask God to unblock the wells.

We need to be fully dependent on Him, seeking His face **not** His “handouts” and wanting His will, **not** our own.

Too often the emphasis is on **our** works, **our** faith, **our** achievements.

We take pride in **our** methodology, **our** techniques, **our** successes, **our** cleverness, **our** knowledge, **our** technology, **our** buildings.

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

We need to be turned round.

We need to repent and obey.

We need to bring passion back into our prayer meetings.

We need to hear prayers from people gripped by God, people seeking His, **not** our own, Glory.

We need to rediscover a Holy Spirit dependency.

The Greek word translated “*poor*” describes the poverty of a person who is beaten to their knees by poverty, absolutely destitute.

This is a person who has **no** earthly resources whatsoever to rely on, and is compelled to put their whole trust in God.

Our own “*spirit*” is so impoverished that we are totally reliant on The Holy Spirit.

Then, and only then, will we see a lifestyle that reflects **Matthew 5:1-12**.

We need to be ‘poor in spirit’.

1 Corinthians 3:16 [NIV] *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”*

What must we do for this to happen?

Confess our sins, claim the forgiveness of Christ’s blood, accept the gift of Christ’s righteousness, then cleansed and made holy, ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to make us His dwelling place.

The Holy Spirit will only dwell in a holy life.

2 Corinthians 6: 2 [NRSV] *“Now is the acceptable time.”*

Yesterday is a cancelled cheque, tomorrow is a promissory note.

Today is the only cash we have, so spend it wisely.

Philippians 4:13 [NIV] *“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

Mountainous tasks are accomplished when a person and God confront the mountain together.