

Day 2

We are all broke!

Matthew 5:3(NKJV) *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

The words that Jesus begins His sermon with are profound, at minimum radical. The beatitudes are not cute platitudes. They are truth that reveals the heart of the Father and the utter helplessness of man. They reveal the deepest need of man and they necessitate a correct response. Man is bankrupt! I am bankrupt, you are bankrupt. Let that thought sink deep within your soul. God says; you are poor. The question is, do you realize that you are completely and utterly broke?

The problem with this poverty, is that we owe a great debt. A debt that has to be satisfied for us to live in a blessed state and to inherit eternal life. **“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”** Jesus is saying to His audience, you all owe a debt that you cannot pay. The Pharisees taught you, that you could pay this debt by richly obeying the law, but I am telling you that although the law in itself is perfect, none of you has the wherewithal to pay a debt that demands a perfect price. The only way for you to get to “blessedness” is to recognize your poverty and acknowledge your indebtedness.

Like a skilled surgeon, Jesus cuts immediately to the problem. He wants the people to know that until they admit their true condition, they will never be able to be truly blessed. God knows our true condition, and instead of us running from that truth or denying it, we must embrace it. Compare two of the churches that John writes to by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Revelation. Listen to what Jesus says to the church in Smyrna:

Revelation 2:8-9a(NLT) *“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna. This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive: 9 “I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich!*

They were a church that was suffering, and they were poor, yet Jesus calls them rich. Now compare that, to what the church of Laodicea said about themselves: **You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ (Revelation 3:17a NLT)** Yet Jesus said this about them: **And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.** That sure does not sound like the blessed life, does it? According to them, they were rich but according to Jesus, they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

To be poor in spirit, is to simply confess your need for God! It is to acknowledge two things: How big God is, and how small you are. This poverty of spirit evokes a response, that sees an enormous debt that I have before a Holy God and an inability to take care of it on my own. So, Jesus says; “Bring your poverty to Me and in humility accept what you will never be able to rectify.” Cry out for mercy before the only just God. There is an open invitation to each and every one of us to come with our poverty and buy that which we truly need, so that we can be rich! How can you buy anything while being bankrupt? Because “Someone” else has paid the price for you!

Revelation 3:18 (NLT) *So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.*

It is the same invitation that the Lord made through the prophet Isaiah. ***“Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it’s all free! 2 Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. 3 “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.” (Isaiah 55:1-3 NLT)***

The same invitation is reiterated by Jesus. ***“I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. 20 “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. (Revelation 3:19-20 NLT)***

Our poverty of spirit should lead us to turn from our indifference and open our heart’s door and welcome in the “One” who made a way for us to exchange our poverty for His riches. He is knocking, will you open the door and let Him in? The best meal you have ever had, with the most loving Person you will ever meet is waiting for you. Would you admit your poverty so that you can receive His riches? How do you buy without money? You purchase by faith through grace.

Reflection and Prayer:

- **Father, I thank you for your amazing grace. I recognize my absolute need for You! I am poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked without You. I cannot save myself or help myself. But I give you praise, because You have invited me to come to You and to buy what I so desperately need. I am not buying from my own account, but I freely receive what Jesus did for me. Thank You, that You anoint my eyes, so I can see. That You open my ears so that I may hear, and that you clothe me in Your robes of righteousness. Thank you, that You became poor for me, so that I through Your poverty might become rich. My door is open! I invite You in, so that we may share a meal together as friends. May I never take for granted the gift You gave me, and may my ears always be open to hear Your voice. Speak Father, and I will listen and obey. In Jesus Name, I pray! Amen and Amen.**