



BUILT to Last

12 Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence. 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT)

- The **storms** in life will test the **strength** of your life.

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on... Matthew 7:24-27 (MSG)

The Beatitudes:

- The Beatitudes describe the **temperament** of a Follower of Christ.

- The Beatitudes are not what we **do**, but who we **are**.

- They are **attitudes** we have as a result of our encounters with God.

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:1-3 (NIV)

The Definition is:

"Blessed" - The attitude that exists because of God's favor or the mindset that comes from God's blessings.

3 "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:1-3 (NIV)

The Poor in Spirit:

- Has nothing to do with **money**.
- Has nothing to do with **degrading** ourselves.

To be Poor in Spirit means:

- I am **helpless** without God.
- I come to God realizing that I am **empty**.
- I am **inadequate** to resolve my spiritual condition.
- I am in desperate **need** of God.

"God blesses those who realize their need for him..." (NLT)

"...who recognize they are spiritually helpless..." (GWT)

"... who depend only on HIM..." (CEV)

"... who know they have great spiritual needs..." (NCV)

- Our **sin** issue is a **pride** issue.

The LORD **detests** all the **proud of heart**. Be sure of this: They will not go **unpunished**. Proverbs 16:5
God opposes **the proud** but gives grace to **the humble**. 1 Peter 5:5

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God." Psalm 10:4 (ESV)

Some expressions of pride:

- I know what's **best** for **me**.
- I can **handle** this myself.

- I don't **need** you.
- I'm **Okay**.
- I'm **better** than **others**.

18 ... "No one is good—except God alone. Mark 10:18 (NIV)

• Humility recognizes that the only thing **good** in me is **God** in me.

- When we don't recognize that all we have is a gift from God, we set ourselves up to **be** God.

- When we don't admit that all we are is because of God, we tend to see ourselves as a gift **to** God.

He told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. Luke 18:9-10 (MSG)

The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.' Luke 18:11-12 (MSG)

- When we are full of **ourselves**, there is no room for **God**.

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' Luke 18:13 (NLT)

Humility is willing to do what **pride** will not.

14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 18:14 (NLT)

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule." Matthew 5:3 (MSG)

How is poverty in Spirit developed?

- Don't make yourself **more** than you are.
- Don't make God **less** than He is.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Talk about the points that describe what the beatitudes are.
- Why does God hate pride? Why do we hate humility?
- What does it mean to be Poor in Spirit? Why is this essential in the life of a follower of Christ?
- Which of the expressions of pride listed do you most wrestle with?
- What are some ways we tell God that we know what's best for us? What are some ways we continue to tell God we can handle this ourselves? Why do we continue to think we're okay? How do we compare ourselves to others?
- Read through Luke 18: 9-14. What stands out to you in this parable? Explain.
- How do we tend to act like the Pharisee?
- How do we maintain an honest assessment of ourselves without devaluing ourselves?
- How do we prevent ourselves from making God less than He is?
- How does being poor in spirit give our lives strength?

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