



**"You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13**

To make a difference in the world, we must be different than the world.

- Your role in this world is to be an influencer in the world.

What are the **Beatitudes**:

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

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

- These 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, 2 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.

"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.

**What Poor in Spirit does 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.

- 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

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

- When we don't admit that all we are is a gift from God, we 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 18:1 (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)

- When we empty ourselves, we are in the perfect position to be filled by God's grace!

"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 we develop Poverty in Spirit:**

- Don't make yourself more than you are.

14 Jesus commented, "This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself." Luke 18:14 (MSG)

- Don't make God less than He is.

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

Questions that can be used in 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.
- 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? How does humility help us "Stay Salty"?
- 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 prevent ourselves from making God less than He is?
- How does humility give us influence in the world?

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Today's Talk..



Stay Humble

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