

Kingdom Principles: The (BE)Attitudes

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sermon Notes:

1. The Beatitudes are the first part of Jesus's longest sermon mentioned in Scripture. It's commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount. Beatitudes at the core mean blessings or descriptors of what it means to be fortunate, favored, or Godlike.
2. The poor in spirit are those who are very aware of themselves and the depth of sin they've inherited. They are those who profoundly understand they are incapable of saving themselves and realize they cannot be Godly or produce a Godly life apart from God. They have ceased trying to accomplish God's will in their own strength.
3. Jesus's life models a life of humility, enforcing the foundational truth of our first Beatitude. For example, He recited the word of God when tempted by Satan and He often withdrew to be with His Father in prayer. These instances show us the power of trusting an ever-present God that can free us to be responsive instead of reactive in our world.

Question to Consider: Where are you trying to save yourself? What would it look like to waive the white flag and trust God's presence and power to help you?

Actions this week:

1. Memorize Matthew 5:3.
2. Name the issue(s) that bring anxiety, fear, and worry in your life. Open your hands to receive God's presence at work in you and in those situations.

Quotes to Consider:

The restoration of the Church will surely come from a sort of new monasticism...[which carries] the uncompromising attitude of a life lived according to the Sermon on the Mount in the following of Christ. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Sermon on the Mount is the curriculum for Christlikeness. - Dallas Willard

Pride is the beginning of all sin. - St. Augustine

When faced with the inevitable lack in our lives, we have a choice. We can follow instincts and close our hands in white-knuckled anxiety or open our hands in childlike trust. - Mark Scandrette

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