

The Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 3
Matthew 5:3
The Character of the Citizens of the Kingdom

Seeing yourself in reality - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (5.3)

- A. Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgment of spiritual bankruptcy.
1. It is the conscious confession of unworthy before God
 2. It is the deepest form of repentance
 3. It is not about our worth or ontological significance but rather a confession that we are sinful and rebellious and utterly without moral virtues adequate to commend ourselves to God.
 4. It is a person's general confession of one's need for God, a humble admission of impotence without Him
- B. We learn at the very outset of The Sermon on the Mount that we do not have the spiritual resources to put any of the Sermon's precepts into practice.
1. We cannot fulfill God's standards ourselves.
 2. We must come to Him and acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy, emptying ourselves of our self-righteousness, moral self-esteem, and personal vainglory.
 3. Emptied of these things we are ready for Him to fill us with His grace.
- C. Progression of Scriptures:
1. Matthew 6:1-34 – two kingdoms contrasted; freedom versus frustration and identity versus security.
 2. Genesis 3:1-7 – why we cannot see in reality
 3. Genesis 5:3 – in his own likeness not God's
 4. Romans 1:18-25 – exchanged images
 5. Romans 1:26-32 – exchanged natural functions
 6. John 1:1-18 – so we might see again; His life is light (5)
 7. Colossians 1:15-20 – reality focused in Christ
 8. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – image of God
 9. Ephesians 5:13-14 – visible when exposed to Christ
 10. James 1:22-25 – seeing self in mirror of God's Word
 11. Luke 18:9-14 – nothing within ourselves (review)
 12. Colossians 1:13 – Satan's darkness to Christ's light
 13. Ephesians 5:8 – can walk in Christ
 14. 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 –transformation process
- D. Summary:

Seeing ourselves as God sees us by the light of Christ and His Word, recognizing our rebellion, sin and total need for Christ, His life, and His righteousness, we turn away from ourselves and submitting to Christ as Lord of our lives, we trust Him for the resources of His life and are transferred from the realm of darkness and illusion to His Kingdom of reality and light