

## Living the Beatitudes (Part 2)

### *Poor in Spirit*

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

- The Greek text can be accurately translated:
  - “Oh how blessed are those who have the heart of a poor one!”
  - “Oh how blessed are those with the soul of a poor one!”
- The *Poor in Spirit* beatitude is in many respects, the source and foundation that all the other beatitudes are built on. In many ways, this Kingdom bedrock principle of *spiritual poverty* is the key to the spiritual life.
  - We’re not talking about *Negative Poverty*
    - material or moral bankruptcy,
    - interior shallowness, emptiness, depravity, or injustice...(see **James 5:1-6**).
  - Instead, a *Holy Poverty* – and emptying of self

#### **Philippians 2:5-8**

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

#### **2 Cor. 8:9**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake **He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.**

- **In what way(s) did Jesus “become poor?”**
- **How did His poverty enrich us?**
- **In what way(s) does our choice to “become poor” enrich others?**
- **What does that look like in ordinary life?**

### Becoming a *Conduit* or A *Channel* of God’s Grace & Provision

*Spiritual poverty is a form of freedom...the freedom to receive everything freely and to give everything freely.*

- Jacques Philippe

The Eight Doors of the Kingdom: Mediations on the Beatitudes

#### **Matthew 10:7-10**

These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them:... as you go, preach, saying, **‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’** <sup>8</sup> Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. **Freely you received, freely give.** <sup>9</sup> **Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, <sup>10</sup> or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff;** for the worker is worthy of his support.

- **“Dying to Self” (Matthew 16:24-26)**
  - Your Dailey and Long-term Agenda for Life
  - Building Your Kingdom
  - Laying up Your Treasures
  - Your Ego
- **This Freedom requires a profound transformation in the way we think and relate to God and how we understand our place in relationship to ourselves and others.**

## Poor in Spirit: “Emptying Self” or “Giving out of the Surplus”

### Luke 21:1-4

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. <sup>2</sup> And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; <sup>4</sup> for they all **out of their surplus** put into the offering; **but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.**”

### Matthew 6:19-20, 24, 31-33

**“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”**

<sup>24</sup> **“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.**”**

<sup>31</sup> **“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”**

- **This is especially hard for us to understand, embrace, or frankly, believe. (American Dream)**
- **Until we see that these Scriptures actually apply to us, we will wrestle with the this fundamental characteristic of Kingdom Life.**

### Matthew 19:23-26

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to His disciples, **“Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>26</sup> And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”**

## The More Ways We Embrace *Holy Poverty*; The More Riches of God’s Kingdom Are Available to Us – *“For Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven”*

- A life of Poor in Spirit supplies endless opportunities to allow dependence on God
- Faith-Building
- Reinforces the Humility of a Servant
- Invokes the Power and Presence of God in Our Lives and Actions **(2 Cor. 12:9-10)**