

06 September



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Beatitudes



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to admit that you needed help?
2. According to Matt. 5:1 where was Jesus? (**Seated on a mountain**).
3. What was the reason given in verse 2? (**Jesus began to teach His disciples and the multitude that gathered**).
4. Matthew chapters 5 – 7 is known as the sermon on the mount, and what is verses 1 – 12 called? (**The beatitudes**).



Let's go deeper

5. What are the beatitudes? (**The blessings; or eight declarations of blessedness spoken by Jesus**).
6. Are the beatitudes of Jesus related to spiritual realities or material possessions? (**Spiritual realities**).
7. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? (**It means that I admit I need help; and I acknowledge that I need God's help in my life**).
8. What does Jesus promise in Matthew 5:3; when we acknowledge and realize our need of Him? (**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven**).



Let's apply this

9. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what the cause could be for doing the wrong things repeatedly and ask Him to help:

Stress	Diet	Finances	Fears
Worry	Relationships	My Overwork	Bad habits
Painful memories	Attractions	Anger	Perfectionism
Resentment	Regrets	Need to control	

THE CAUSE: _____

Prayer: I ADMIT I need help; that I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

SUMMARY:

Read: Matthew 5:1 – 3;

- The Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:1 – 2; The sermon begins with the disciples gathered at the feet of Jesus, and with the multitudes listening.

v.3; The first portion of the Sermon on the Mount is known as the Beatitudes, which means "The Blessings;" but can also be understood as giving the believer his "be – attitudes" – the attitudes he should "be." In the Beatitudes, Jesus sets forth both the nature and the aspirations of citizens of His kingdom. They have and are learning these character traits. The Beatitudes are the eight declarations of blessedness spoken by Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, each beginning with "Blessed are..."

In the beatitudes, Jesus is concerned with spiritual realities not material possessions. When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," He is declaring that, before we can enter God's kingdom, we must recognize the utter worthlessness of our own spiritual currency and the inability of our own works to save us.

The Greek word for poor is pto-khos; meaning to be a beggar or beggarly. The poor (beggar) in spirit: This is not a man's confession that he is by nature insignificant or personally without value. Instead, it is a confession that he is sinful, rebellious and utterly without moral virtues adequate to commend him to God.

The poor in spirit recognize that they have no spiritual "assets." They know they are spiritually bankrupt. It indicates someone who must beg for whatever they have or get. Poverty of spirit is not self-hatred, but the Holy Spirit working in our hearts. Those who are poor in spirit, so poor they must beg, are rewarded. They receive the kingdom of heaven, because poverty of spirit is an absolute need for receiving the kingdom of heaven.

Rick Warren in his book Life's healing choices; the beatitudes writes the following: "The first beatitude is the first healing choice, which I refer to as the **reality choice**, for getting rid of your habits, your hurts and your hang-ups that mess up your life. Matthew 5:3, the first Beatitude "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs" (NLT).

And what does it mean to be "poor in spirit?" It means I admit I need help and that I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing, and my life is unmanageable. That is what it means to be poor in spirit. It means to acknowledge that I can't control and manage everything in my life and I need God's help."