

**BLESSED ARE THE  
POOR IN SPIRIT  
MOURNERS  
MEEK  
HUNGRY  
MERCIFUL  
PEACEMAKERS  
PERSECUTED**

**THE BEATITUDES**

Matthew 5

Sermon on the Mount - The Beatitudes - Part 2

So let's jump into the text and let's listen once again to the words of Jesus.

**The Beatitudes**

*5 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. <sup>2</sup> Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

*<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.*

*<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the earth.*

*<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
For they shall be filled.*

*<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
For they shall obtain mercy.*

*<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see God.*

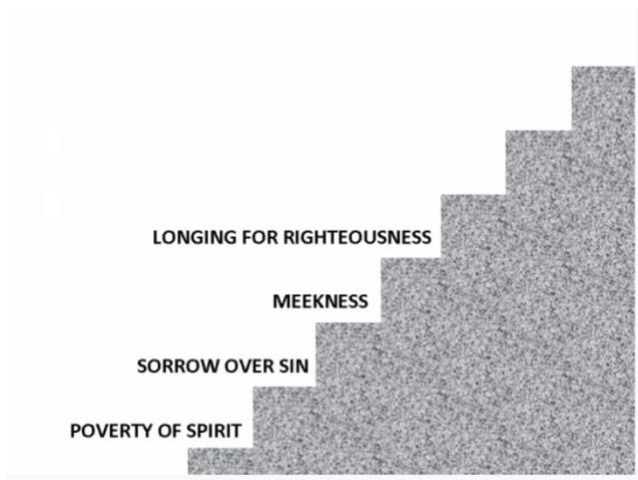
*<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they shall be called sons of God.*

*<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:1-11 NKJV)*

Let's take a short review of the three that we looked at last week.

The Beatitudes are a sort of stair step to become Christ-like and to come closer to Jesus.



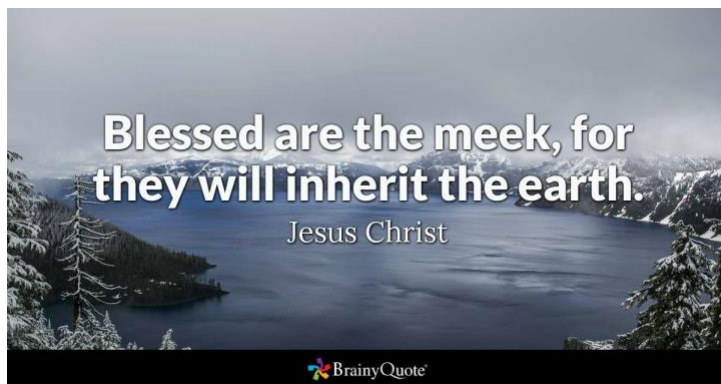
**Blessed are the poor in spirit** - poverty of spirit. This is the first step in coming to Jesus. If you don't realize you're a sinner, you can't begin to make your way to Him. Even people who just come to church, are showing that they have a need in their life. It is an indication of a revelation of sin. It is an indicator of being poor in spirit. Jesus said, "I've not come to call the righteous, but the sinners".

Jesus came to call the "losers". It's the rough, the broken, those.



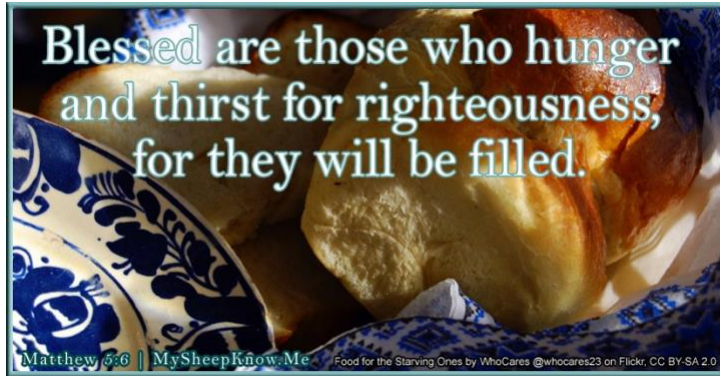
**Blessed are Those Who Mourn** - when you've understood your own condition, you are filled with sorrow. That is a godly sorrow. Those kind of people should mourn. When someone dies we expect a period of mourning. It's normal and healthy.

We mourn over our sins because we mourn over the loss: Lost families, lost relationships, lost opportunities, lost hours, days, lost years.



**Blessed are the Meek** - this is the next step in the progression to Christ. After you've recognized your sin mourned over it, you are meek. Meekness is seeing yourself as you truly are and you have a whole different perspective of who you are and who others are. You don't see yourself too high nor do you see yourself too low. You don't really

think much about yourself at all. You stop manipulating.



**Blessed are Those who Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness** - we will learn this morning what it is to hunger and long after righteousness and what does righteousness really mean? First righteous means "correct" and therefore "innocent" (NAS Exhaustive concordance). It means being right. There are two kinds of righteousness:

1 Righteousness before Man (Personal righteousness). - something we are because of our actions. If I am a truth-teller, upright in my dealings etc., you could say I am righteous.

2 Righteousness before God (Positional righteousness) - correct, innocent, and right before God only comes through the atoning blood of Jesus.

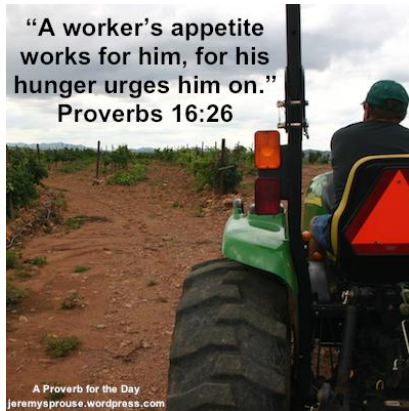
Our actions don't do it. Isaiah 64:6a All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. And,

Romans 3:20 <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. <sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

This is "positional righteousness". We are "innocent before God" because of our faith in Jesus Christ. God has given/imputed the righteousness of Jesus to you because you believe the righteousness was given to you.

Jesus doesn't differentiate between these two! Why? Because He wants us to be concerned with BOTH!

*Remember what Jesus said <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV)*



Jesus wants us to desire this righteousness from our deepest depths. Being hungry and thirsty are basic biological needs. We may not hear this like the listeners heard that day when Jesus spoke. We are able to immediately meet our needs. We've forgotten what it even feels like to be "hungry".

Scripture tells us that our hunger is what urges us on. When we have hunger for the things of God it urges us on to want Him more than food or drink. We feel a DEEP need for Him and for righteous living. We do work to eat. We do work to be able to eat. In Biblical times they worked to eat. They didn't have mortgages, car payments, furniture payments.

Etc. I don't know that anyone of us in this room can understand hunger that borders on starvation.

Jesus is saying to those people. Blessed are you when you hunger and thirst to be right, correct, and in the right relationship with God and your fellow man. It is deep LONGING in our souls for God and the things of God.

What are the things that you want so badly you can taste it? Jesus is applying this to a desire for righteousness. And what's the promise?

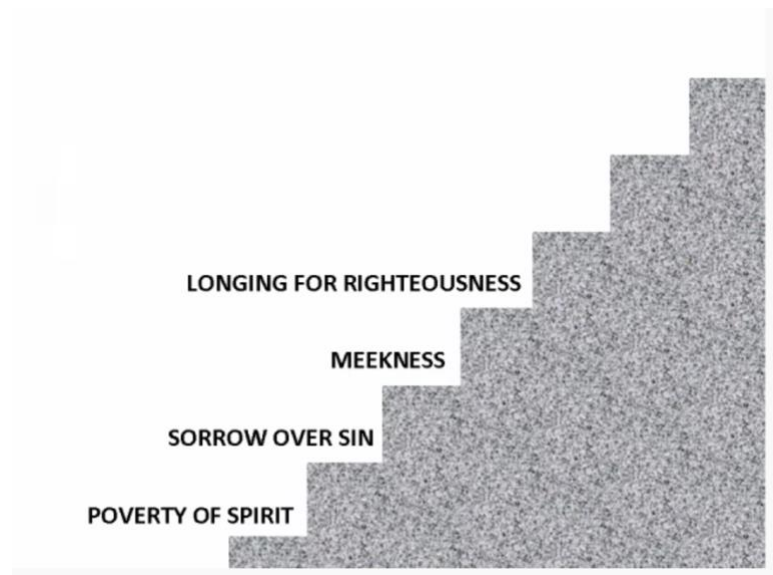
THEY WILL BE FILLED - the Greek word here means THEY WILL BE SATURATED. It's the water that slowly replenishes the dry earth after a drought. SEEKING TOTAL RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD AND MAN IS WHAT REPLENISHES OUR SOUL BEYOND UNDERSTANDING.

POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS - don't try to apply practical or personal righteousness because Paul tells us that "trying to be a good person" won't give you a right relationship with God.

Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins? If so, you are positionally righteous before the Father. You my child are righteous. I don't know how or why God looks at me as righteous. Personal righteousness comes through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit of God takes up residence in us and we don't treat others like we used to do. We see ourselves differently and we see others differently. We begin to be concerned about others.

We begin to love others like we've never loved. We begin to be merciful like we've never been. We begin to be honest with others because we want them to be honest with us.



So in review, we begin at the bottom stair step of realizing our **spiritual poverty**. We then have **sorrow or mourning** over our sin, and we see ourselves differently and we see others differently. We then begin to have a new control over our lives. That is **meekness**. It is control over the "wild horse" within us. We then long for righteousness which first is imputed to us in our relationship with God, and then affects our

treatment of others where we begin to love others as ourselves. This means we treat others like we like to be treated. We love others like we want to be loved. We extend grace as we've received grace. This my friends describes the stairstep<sup>1</sup> we take on our spiritual journey.

Let us pray

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at [uniongrove362@gmail.com](mailto:uniongrove362@gmail.com) or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.

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<sup>1</sup> Diagram designed and provided by Pastor Paul Boutellier, Calvary Chapel, Ontario, California