

Sermon on the Mount  
The “Be” Attitudes  
Matthew 5:1-4

**I. The Backdrop of the sermon (Versus 1-2)**

- This message was preached from a hillside in a Rabi customary fashion
  - Jesus had now begun public ministry and large crowds of people were beginning to follow Him.
  - He went up onto the hillside and His disciples came to Him.
  - As a Rabi He would have assumed the role of teacher and sat down while the listeners actually stood up.
  - The message is directed at the disciples although during the message others gather and our amazed (Matthew 7:28)
- How long was the message?
  - A day? A week? A Month? Matthew 8:1 simply says “When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.”

**II. The Beattitudes (Verses 3-12)**

- We are now approaching the first section of the sermon that is typically called the Beattitudes.
  - The word Beatitude simply means “the blessing” which you will see used repeatedly throughout the text.
  - Notice that it is called a “Be” attitude not a “Do” attitude!
  - These attitudes that Jesus is speaking about are not simply something you “do” but rather something that your “are”.
  - These Beattitudes simply lay out the nature and aspirations of the a “Kingdom Minded Citizen” individual
- Don’t just focus on one of the attitudes. They all apply!
- The word blessed is used in each of the attitudes. For example “Blessed are the poor in Spirit”
  - In the simplest form the Greek word for blessed means “Happy”
  - It means “Happy” in the Godliest sense not like our worldly happiness that comes with the moment or our situation
  - It is referring to the deep down contentment and satisfaction that can only come from being a believer.

**III. The Poor in Spirit (Verse 3)**

- “Poor” in spirit is the foundational attitude of a “Kingdom Citizen”
  - “Poor” in spirit does not mean mans’ ability to feel insignificant or of no value about who he is.
  - It is not a picture of a person who is depressed, self loathing, or down and out
  - Rather a person who is “poor” in spirit is one who realizes before God they are spiritually bankrupt
    - In short this is a confession that we do not have or posses moral virtues adequate enough to commend ourselves to God
    - The “poor” in spirit realize that before a Holy, Just, and Righteous God they stand empty handed with nothing to offer God that would make Him desire them
    - Isaiah 64:6 “Our righteousness is as filthy rags...”
    - This type of “Poverty” of spirit can not be brought on or manifested by self hatred, rather it is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit.
    - In short we realize we are sinners “saved by” God’s grace
    - In great example of this is found in Luke 18:9-14
    - The publican demonstrated what it means to be “poor” in spirit
- The Kingdom of Heaven is the believers reward
  - Salvation and eternal life is the reward for those who are “poor” in spirit and trust Jesus for salvation
  - Being “poor” in spirit is an absolute prerequisite for entering into the salvation
  - As long as we “harbor” illusions about our righteousness we will not ask God for what we so desperately need spiritually.

**IV. Those who Mourn (Verse 4)**

- The Godly reaction to poverty of spirit would be an attitude of mourning
  - Jesus is not speaking about a casual sorrow for the consequences of sin
  - Jesus is not speaking about just agreeing intellectually about our sinful state, but rather saying there will be a deep grief before God over our fallen state. (We as the church in America, have lost a deep grief over sin)
  - We have a deep understanding that our sin, does not just simply affect us, but rather it is far reaching and there is collateral damage to those around us.
- The “Kingdom Citizen” will be comforted
  - This is one of the great truths of scripture
  - In Jesus the Kingdom Citizen will find comfort for their mourning
  - God demonstrates and shows Mercy and Grace to the mourning
- Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”
  - For the believer comfort is found in the cross of Christ
  - Jesus has paid the ransom to redeem us back to God through His finished work at Calvary
  - We in the midst of our poverty and mourning can find great comfort in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
  - For the “Kingdom Citizen” there is no condemnation, what comfort!

