

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

*Loving Teacher - The Beatitudes:
Poor in Spirit - Part 2*

Reading: Isaiah 57:14-21

1 John 3:16-23 (Slide 2)

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, (and I believe this extends well beyond what someone needs physically) and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his

(Slide 3) 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. (Slide 4) 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (Slide 5) 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

I believe the key concept in this passage of scripture is the evaluation of the condition of one's heart in response to the circumstances of life and to the directives of the Gospel message.

Is our heart directed by love to act for the benefit of our fellow man who may be simply poor, without necessities for daily living?

Is our heart directed by compassion for those who are hurting and need a kind word to be lifted up?

Is our heart directed by empathy to comfort one in loss?

Is our heart directed by strong faith when one who we know is suffering despair and needs something to shore up their condition in a time of uncertainty?

Is our heart directed toward those who are ***“poor in spirit”*** looking diligently day and night for hope?

This is the true message of Jesus as He teaches and comforts on the Mount. Your hope is here!!

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”***

I believe Jesus appeals to those who are materially poor, yet, more importantly, to those who are spiritually bankrupt whether rich or poor, young or old, male or female.

A condition of the heart one knows exists, but cannot determine a way in which to relieve the condition.....until now by Christ Jesus has come.

We understand fully when someone speaks of those who are poor. It is plain to see from their lowly estate from the standpoint of their poverty. We know what it means when one is poor and doesn't have food.

There are many programs throughout the U.S. that address hunger in our nation. There are many summer programs that address hunger for our youth.

During school they are fed. Yet, when summer arrives they don't have that daily meal. Many schools offer year round breakfast and dinner so that they will at least have one meal.

This we understand and sometimes witness with our own eyes. But do we understand and see with our hearts those who are ***“poor in spirit?”*** We *certainly should. We were once among them without Christ.*

Many on their own come to realize their condition. Jesus is directing His message to those who realize they are without hope and are lost.

It isn't like those of the church of **Laodicea** who believed themselves to be spiritually wealthy because they prospered monetarily:

Revelation 3:17 (Slide 6)

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

They were spiritually broken and didn't even realize it.

No! He's talking about those with the attitude and the recognition of their spiritual emptiness like the tax collector who wouldn't even look up as he was beating his breast proclaiming; ***"God, be merciful to me a sinner!"*** **Luke 18:13** - He knows his condition!!

But how will one know unless someone tells them!

Romans 10:14 (Slide 7)

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Do we recognize the "poor in spirit?" How will they know their standing with God unless someone tells them?

Isaiah 64:6 (Slide 8)

But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Micah 6:6-8 (Slide 9)

**6 With what shall I come before the LORD,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?**

(Slide 10) **7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten
thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**

(Slide 11) **8 He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly, To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?**

*How will they know that the only way to stand justified before the Lord is by
contacting the blood of the lamb through baptism if no one teaches them?*

Many don't realize that they are an enemy of God because of sin in their
lives!

Isaiah 59:2 (Slide 12)

***But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have
hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.***

Yet, so many still in sin pray to God expecting Him to hear. How will they
know until someone proclaims to them that they truly have the condition of
being ***“poor in spirit.”***

Nothing has changed from the prophets warning to the New Testament's
teaching. Sin separates us from God!

Romans 8:7-8 (Slide 13)

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Isaiah prophesied about God's chosen ones conditions and Apostle Paul is telling those who think and live according to the flesh about their condition. The condition of the heart! ***"Poor in spirit!"***

But often, when they hear and when they see they respond!

Acts 2:41 (Slide 14)

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. These were the "poor in spirit."

If no one tells them, how will they know they are not only ***poor in spirit*** but because Christ Jesus came and died, that the Kingdom of Heaven can be theirs?

Those that hear and respond are added to the church (**Acts 2:47**) and qualify for the inheritance of life eternal if, they remain faithful:

Colossians 1:9-12 (Slide 15)

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good (Slide 16) work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

"Blessed are the Poor in Spirit"

The ***“Poor in Spirit”*** aren’t necessarily the poor in regards to this world’s goods although that is often a mitigating factor. The ***poor in spirit*** recognize their lost condition and are searching for hope.

Apostle Paul tells the church at Ephesus:

Ephesians 2:12 (Slide 17)

-remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

“Without hope: Poor in Spirit”

But when the word was presented to them they received it became the example of everlasting hope in Christ.

Ephesians 2:13 (Slide 18)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

That condition can also be seen in the backslider who realizes his life hasn’t reflected the commitment they made to be *“Christ-Like.”*

A condition that has caused internal reflection that has led to remorse and true repentance. I always think of the *“prodigal son”* when I give consideration to this condition.

I need Jesus Christ to survive!!

Isaiah 57:15 (Slide 19)

***For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.***

Hope for the **contrite and lowly in spirit**. To be contrite is to have a deep level of remorse that leads to repentance. A feeling of being completely crushed by sin and failure before God.

This truly reflects the **"Poor in Spirit"** and connects very well with **"Blessed are those that Mourn"** as we will see in our next lesson.

Invitation

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The recognition of being **"poor in spirit"** causes one to seek the **"kingdom of heaven."** This is where I was but now, I have hope in Christ!

If you are in this condition and you see yourself separated from God by sin, today is the day to make the commitment to have your sins washed away by the cleansing **blood of the Lamb**. A call to be baptized into Christ and to live for Him.

Perhaps today you recognize the need to recommit your life to Christ. You have once been washed in the blood of the Lamb but recognize you haven't lived up to that commitment. We can help you with that today by praying for you and help strengthen your relationship with Him.

Whatever it may be that you need assistance with, please let us know.....

Reading

Isaiah 57:14-21

14 And it will be said:

"Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people."

**15 For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the
spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

**16 I will not accuse them forever,
nor will I always be angry,
for then they would faint away because of me—
the very people I have created.**

**17 I was enraged by their sinful greed;
I punished them, and hid my face in anger,
yet they kept on in their willful ways.**

**18 I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;
I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel’s mourners,**

**19 creating praise on their lips.
Peace, peace, to those far and near,”
says the LORD. “And I will heal them.”**

**20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea,
which cannot rest,
whose waves cast up mire and mud.**

21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

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