

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Perfect Faith

Matthew 5:3

¹ The message, Perfect Faith, comes from Matthew, chapter 5, verse 3, ² **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Before we get to this message I need to explain some things.

This is the first message of the Beatitudes which consist of the introduction to the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is found in the 5th through the 7th chapters of Matthew. ³ They are the main points of the Lord's sermons to His disciples. It is a compilation of much of His main biblical teachings. ⁴

We have an English translation, here, of a Greek text which was an interpretation of several sermons originally spoken in Aramaic. Aramaic was a dialect of Hebrew. ⁵

So we wonder, how can we have any accuracy here? ⁶ It's because God's Holy Spirit is in this whole

process! He is interpreting and safeguarding what we have. 7

What are the Beatitudes? 8 He is not talking here about something in the future you can look forward to. This is something you already have or have the potential of having. 9

Verse 3 might, therefore, more accurately read, **You are so fortunate when you are poor in spirit because you are experiencing the kingdom of heaven. 10 So, God is using your experiences, the circumstances of life, good and bad, to mold your character!**

God cares very much about the circumstances you experience. He feels deeply with you when you go through your trials. But, He is more concerned about the molding process than He is about your circumstances. He sees you from His eternal perspective! 11

So, these Beatitudes are the character traits He is molding into you so you can experience the final result!

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹²

I. How Do You Get “Perfect Faith” Out of “Poor in Spirit”?

How do you get “perfect faith” out of “poor on spirit”?

¹³

First, let’s look at **the words in this verse.** ¹⁴ The word **poor** in the original language, in this text, ¹ means to crouch or to tremble. He crouches to show his low estate in the hopes of getting a handout. ¹⁵ The Aramaic word for “poor” ² the Lord probably used, means feeling in want, being destitute. ¹⁶

Next, let’s see **the cultural setting.** The Jews, here, were in a religious culture; so both of these words

¹ πτωχός.

² עני.

came to mean “the person, who, because he has no earthly resources, puts his whole trust in God to provide his needs”. ¹⁷

God’s promises, in His word, to the poor is what this trust would rely on. ¹⁸

Psalm, chapter 34, verse 6, **This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.** ¹⁹

Psalm, chapter 9, verse 18, **But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.** ²⁰

Psalm, chapter 68, verse 10, **Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.** ²¹

Psalm, chapter 132, verse 15, **I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food.**

²²

So, what does this mean? ²³ Combining the meaning of the Greek and Aramaic words, plus the religious

culture, my paraphrase becomes, “You are so fortunate when you realize your utter helplessness and put your whole trust in God to provide your needs”! ²⁴

This idea is supported in James, chapter 2, verse 5, Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ²⁵

So, poor in spirit implies that God wants you to have the character of complete trust in Him to provide your needs regardless of how much or how little you have materially. ²⁶

Lord Jesus tells a story about two guys in the Temple praying. One was a Pharisee; a religious good guy everyone respected, and the other was a tax collector; a bad guy most everyone hated.

The Pharisee thanked God for making him the good guy patting himself on the back. But the tax collector, realizing his desperate need for forgiveness, asked

God for mercy because he knew he was a bad guy and wanted to change his life.

Jesus told His listeners, from God's point of view, the humble bad guy, who wanted to change, went home justified, not the goodie two shoes who thought he was already there! ³ 27

God wants you to be emotionally detached from things and attached to Him! The Apostle Paul nailed it when he said, **I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ⁴ 28**

³ Luke 18:9-14 - To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

⁴ Philippians 4:12.

So now . . .

II. What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

What is the kingdom of heaven? ²⁹

Well, **what is a kingdom?** ³⁰ It's a territory where a king rules. ³¹

Lord Jesus said, **Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.** ⁵ ³²

Why does the kingdom belong to people who are like little children? ³³ Because they are trusting, teachable and obedient! These are ideal citizens for a kingdom. ³⁴ So, the kingdom of God is the reign of God in your heart! ³⁵

Where is the kingdom?

There appears to be two aspects of this kingdom; the one in this life and the one in the next life. ³⁶

⁵ Mark 10:14.

The aspect of **the kingdom in this life is the church.** ³⁷
The message of John the Baptist when he was preaching, was that **the kingdom of God is near.** ^{6 38}
After John was imprisoned, Jesus preached that same message. ^{7 39} When Lord Jesus sent His twelve disciples on their first mission journey, this was their message, **As you go, preach this message: The kingdom of heaven is near.** ^{8 40} The place where the rule of God is accepted in this life is the church. ⁴¹

The aspect of **the kingdom in the next life is heaven itself!** ⁴²

The Bible talks about the kingdom of God coming after this earthly life is over. First Corinthians, chapter 15, verse 50 emphatically states, **I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.** ⁴³ Lord Jesus put it this way, **I say to**

⁶ Matthew 3:2.

⁷ Matthew 4:17 - From that time on Jesus began to preach, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

⁸ Matthew 10:7.

you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ⁹ ₄₄

God wants to mold into your life a perfect faith so when you get to heaven you'll not feel out of place! ₄₅

He may use trials to make you "poor in spirit". ₄₆

When you have that faith, it will be worth it because you'll have the Kingdom of Heaven!

<http://www.biblelifemessages.org>

⁹ Matthew 8:11.