

God's Pathway to Wholeness: BE EMPTY

Greg Wendschlag April 16, 2023

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Mt. 5:3

God gives a pathway, a way of life, for His people to follow to be whole
as they travel to the promised land.

Contrast the giving of the Law with the giving of the Sermon on the Mount

- God is separate vs God is among.
- God calls a special person to come up to Him vs God calls all to be with Him.
- The Law commands externals vs Jesus words speak to the heart.
- The Law is incomplete vs Jesus fulfills the Law.
- The Law is about doing vs Jesus is about becoming.

What does it mean to be blessed?

- “Happy” - dependent on outward circumstances.
- “Blessed” - joy untouchable

What does “poor in spirit” mean?

- This poor person has absolutely nothing
 - Penes - Nothing extra.
 - Ptochos - Nothing.
- The spiritually poor person realizes God is completely “other”.
- The spiritually poor person realizes God is completely unreachable on his own.
- The spiritually poor person has emptied self of all things belonging to his own kingdom.

Why is the person who is poor in spirit so joyful?

- He sees himself truthfully compared to God.
- He empties himself humbly before God.
- A person's honest humility is always met with God's grace.

“Oh the JOY when someone understands that they are broken, helpless and lost. This realization makes them reach out to God for help and He always comes to the rescue!”

Thoughts as we linger before the Lord.

- Am I willing to admit I cannot know God without His help?
- Have I emptied myself of all my own kingdom things?
- Have I asked God to show me areas I have not emptied?
- Am I constantly amazed that God would love me?
- Do I praise God continually for what He has done for me?