

“THE KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE”
Big Idea . . . Part 2: Blessed are the Nobodies
(Matt. 5:3)

INTRO: Observations . . . Every person’s search for blessedness ends in a relationship with Christ. He came to bring blessedness and make life meaningful. His first recorded teaching had one theme - “Blessed” (satisfied, content, etc.). The B give us the keys to blessedness. Each B has same *form*: Requirement and result. Blessedness is the product of a kind of character. They give us the needed attitudes to enter and enjoy God’s kingdom. Jesus begins the keys to blessedness with these words...(v.3). Strange, almost shocking. Let’s ask FOUR QUESTIONS:

I. WHY DID JESUS START HERE?

- A. What makes being poor in spirit the source of blessedness? Addresses the fundamental trait of a Christian. Being poor in spirit is the only way to enter the KOH. It is foundation of all the graces. We cannot be filled until we are empty. We can’t become Somebody in Him until we see we are nobody w/o Him.

ILLUS: Flooded with self-help books on how to be somebody, be filled, etc. How about one on how to be nothing (bestseller?).

- B. Jesus says, “Blessed are the nobodies.” World says, “Baloney!” But until we are humble, Christ isn’t precious. We can’t see Him because too busy looking at ourselves. Until we see our poverty, never want His plenty. God only gives His grace to the humble. The road to blessedness begins with poverty of spirit.

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT?

A. DEFINITION

1. NOT endorsing material or financial poverty; nor of a cowardly spirit like excuse me-for-being-here; nor fake humility that puts self down, hoping you’ll lift them up. Nuns, Priests Monks, . . .
2. The “POOR” (*ptochos*) here IS absolute, abject poverty. It describes a beggar, with no resources at all. This one is beggar-poor, empty, helpless, and powerless. Verb means, “to cringe, to cower.”

This poverty is “in spirit”. It is internal, spiritual poverty. It is admission of one who is spiritually empty, helpless, and powerless. These persons realize they are a spiritual pauper, spiritually bankrupt and destitute. One word, “cannot!” The poor in spirit humbly depend on God and not self.

- B. ILLUSTRATIONS - (Psa. 34:18; 51:17; Isa. 57:15; 66:2). Like Jacob, Isaiah, Gideon, Moses in OT. In NT like publican (Lk. 18:9-14); Peter (Lk. 5:8); Paul (Rom. 7:18).

- C. SUMMATION - Being poor in spirit recognizes I am w/o resources, pride, self-assurance, reliance, etc. and then runs to God for mercy and grace. It is an honest admission of “I need the Lord in my life.” A “w/o Him I can do nothing” attitude. There is no greater need than when we think we have no need. Salvation is by grace alone.

III. WHAT IS THE RESULT?

“...theirs is the KOH.” The KOH belongs to the poor in spirit NOW through the rule of Christ in your life. He provides what we need now. He fills our emptiness. Admission of spiritual poverty brings spiritual affluence. The spiritually bankrupt become possessors of the kingdom, here & now, and forever.

IV. HOW CAN WE EXPRESS POOR IN SPIRIT? By trusting and depending on God for:

- A. Salvation – On my own I can’t earn or deserve it; all of grace (Eph. 2:8-9)
- B. Wisdom (Pro. 14:12; 3:5-7). – How get? Jam. 1:5
- C. Strength (Phil. 4:13; Isa. 40:31)
- D. Direction (and timing) – Psa. 31:14-15. Learn to wait and trust.
- E. Defense (Psa. 2:12; 62:5-7) – Jesus is our example.
- F. Provision (Phil. 4:19) – Rate yourself on each . . .

CONC: What have we to give to God? Nothing! What has He to give us? Everything! What makes His riches mine? Recognize my spiritual bankruptcy and run to Him. Want to be blessed? Become *God*-dependent! If God becomes your only resource, then no one can threaten you! True blessedness begins here - sensing your spiritual helplessness. “Oh the blessedness of the spiritual paupers, the spiritually destitute, the spiritually bankrupt ones who cringe and cower because of their helplessness - and who put their whole trust in God; for they possess the KOG now and forever!” The proud cry out, “I am self-sufficient & can make it alone!” The Blessed cry, “Please help me!”