

THE BLESSEDNESS OF BEING HUMBLE
(Matthew 5:3)

I. The Beatitudes

A. The MEANING of “BLESSED”

1. Often treated as a synonym for “HAPPY”
2. Emphasis is on FUTURE “blessedness” in the KINGDOM
3. CONTENTEDNESS or SATISFACTION that is rooted not in one’s SELF or CIRCUMSTANCES, but in PEACE with GOD

B. The CHARACTER of the Beatitudes

1. Confront our natural search for SATISFACTION in the PHYSICAL
2. Reveal that our SPIRITS find TRUE satisfaction in the SPIRITUAL
(Col. 3:1-2; 1 John 2:15, 17)
3. Are divine JUDGMENTAL PRONOUNCEMENTS
4. Are PROGRESSIVE

II. The POOR in SPIRIT (Matt. 5:3)

A. Its MEANING

1. Refers to being spiritually DESTITUTE
2. Requires DEPENDENCE on GIFTS for sustenance
3. Recognizes one’s HELPLESS condition

B. Its PRIORITY

1. HUMILITY is the FOUNDATION of all other graces
2. Humility must PRECEDE everything else

C. Its ACHIEVEMENT

1. Cannot START with YOU
2. Not a human WORK to make you WORTHY
3. But a DIVINE work revealing your UNWORTHINESS
 - a. Change focus from SELF to GOD (Col. 3:2)
 - b. STARVE the flesh (Col. 3:5, 8-9; Phil 2:12-13)
 - c. ASK GOD for it (Ps. 51:10)

D. Its CHARACTERISTICS

1. WEANED from SELF (Gal. 2:20)
2. LOST in the WONDER of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18)
3. UNCOMPLAINING about your situation (Rom. 8:18)
4. Recognize others' VIRTUES and your own SINS (Rom. 12:10; Phil 2:3)
5. Spend much time in PRAYER
6. Take Christ on HIS TERMS
7. Will PRAISE and THANK God for His GRACE

E. Its REWARD: participation in the KINGDOM of HEAVEN (Isa. 57:15)