

## Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

In the book of Matthew, our Master taught His disciples the secret to enter the Kingdom, which has become "popular reading material" among Christians. They call them "The Beatitudes," but they were really only written for believers. When we read it, we cannot just take it lightly, or as poetry, because it is not. Everything our Master said in Matthew 5-7 has been written down for us who believe (Acts 2:44).

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

This is the second calling (Rom 1:7), written to us who received the first calling (Rom 1:6). So, this is essential for us to do, and it is not just extra "reading material," as our entry into the Kingdom depends upon our being "poor in spirit." We who are baptized into Messiah (meaning immersed into His Body) were baptized to be part of "all those who believe." We already expressed some measure of "poverty of spirit" when we received our Master Yahshua and the good news of salvation through a sent one (who himself had received the good news of salvation), in order to gain eternal life.

Are you "poor in spirit?" What does "poor in spirit" mean?

John Mark — You don't think you know already; you come before Him with the attitude that you need the wisdom from our Father.

Yes, listening to wisdom in your brothers, not thinking you know more than them.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Mt 5:4-5)

Who are "meek"? We need to be those people at the end of days. Our Master said the meek will be blessed. Am I meek? Are you meek? Are we meek? Well, do we want to inherit the earth in the next age, or not? Then we have to be meek.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." (Mt 5:6)

Ask yourself, "Do I hunger and thirst for righteousness?" If I don't, then maybe I'm not poor in spirit; maybe that is something I need that I do not have. Our Master added, "These will be filled." Those who are not "poor in spirit" will not be, for they are "all set."

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” (Mt 5:7)

He is merciful on the merciful. Are we merciful? Do we forgive others? If we don't forgive, then we are not going to be forgiven ourselves (Mt 6:14-15). We are certainly not going to be worthy to enter the Kingdom unless we are merciful to others. Those who are merciful will be blessed — they will be shown mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Mt 5:8)

There is no entry into the Kingdom, unless we are all of these things. So what do we have to do then? It is not enough just to say, “I want to be that way.” It is going to take us appealing to our Father, as we cannot merely act that way; we have to BE that way. Somehow, we have to see God to enter the Kingdom. Who can see God? Can anyone? Well, our Master said the pure in heart can, in some way.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Mt 5:9)

Blessed are those who make peace, in the community — not disturb the peace. They are peacemakers, and so they will be called “sons of God” in the next age, or the eternal age (maybe even in this age). Sons of God are peacemakers. If you're not a peacemaker, maybe you are not a son of God (Pr 6:16,19). You sow peace, or you sow division. Someone who sows discord is an abomination to God. Such people spread strife, speak detrimentally about others, and cause alienation and separation (Pr 16:28).

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 5:10)

If we are not worthy of being persecuted for the Kingdom of Heaven, then, I guess, we are not going to enter the Kingdom either. If we're not persecuted, then maybe we aren't righteous; maybe we are not seeking Him, and so we do not hunger and thirst for righteousness, obviously (Mt 6:33). Certainly, we will not be filled with His righteousness either (Mt 5:6). If we are filled with true righteousness, we will be persecuted.

“Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake.” (Mt 5:11)

They will do that because of our Master Yahshua. So, what are we supposed to do then?

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.” (Mt 5:12)

If we are not truly being persecuted “for righteousness sake,” if we are not being persecuted falsely for His sake, we have no reward in the Kingdom. We can only rejoice if we have been persecuted for being filled with His righteousness.

We need to truly understand these Scriptures as being the way to life, and not just pass them on as quotations to memorize. We have to be all these things in order to enter the Kingdom. We have to endeavor to BE what our Master said here, whatever it takes. If we judge ourselves right, we know we are not yet that way. Have we “arrived” yet? No, but we can say, “We are on our way,” and not that “We’ve arrived.”

I am thankful our Master spoke these words, and someone wrote them down for us, for our instruction. We may have been saved and have eternal life, but we are not worthy to enter the Kingdom unless we are filled with His righteousness, as in Mt 5:3-12. There is no other way (Mt 7:13-14; Lk 13:24-28). We have to understand these things to be who we are, and to know what we have to do in order to enter the Kingdom. We are commanded to know and do it. We cannot just act as if we are this way, but rather we have to actually BE this way.

ha-êmeq — I am so thankful that the great and almighty God of the universe sent His message through that perfect man, Yahshua. He sat down on that day, opened His mouth, and taught, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Our Master could have said something else, such as, “Come down to the altar,” and all those other things preachers say, which have given people a wrong idea about what God is like.

John Mark — If you are poor in spirit, you don't claim you know how to do things; you receive what others have to say, and accept their instruction. We should truly ask, “Brothers, what should I do in this situation?” If you come with strength behind your own plan, and feel you know what should happen, it is very difficult to receive any new direction. I want to come to the place of loving that feeling of needing wisdom. It is truly a secure

feeling, when you are depending on Him in that groping process, being with your brothers.

It is wonderful, how we can truly be everything we sing in, "Do you remember that He said..." Yes, He really meant, "Father let them be one," and, "Love one another as I loved you." However, what if we were not one and we were denominated as we sang that song? What if we had divisions between us, yet we all still sang it with a big smile on our face? We would be hypocrites. But we love to sing that song, and we love to live just like that song says, "Father, let them be one." When Christians come into our midst, we really sing that part in the song, "Life! No denominations..." You can see when we sing that, it especially means the relationship between children and parents.

"All men will know you are My disciples if you love one another" (Jn 13:35). Do you think He really meant it? All who do, let's lift up holy hands, without wrath or dissension (1 Tim 2:8).