

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

July 31, 2014

Matthew 5:1-3

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

poor in spirit (*Gk. ptochos*) to crouch or cower like a beggar, bent over, deeply destitute, completely lacking resources, helpless as a beggar, lacking in anything

- Blessed are those who see the depth of their need.
- Those who see the depth of their need will be filled with the kingdom of heaven.
- Those who do not see the depth of their need will not obtain the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 18:9-14

9 He also told this parable to some **who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:**

10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

14 I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Isaiah 6:1-7

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 And I said: “**Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!**”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

Job 42:1-6

1 Then Job answered the Lord and said:

2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' **Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**

4 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.'

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

9 But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will **boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

10 For the sake of Christ, then, **I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Psalms 40:17

"As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!"