

The Beatitudes: Kingdom Living. Here and Now

“Blessed are the poor in spirit. . .” Matthew 5:1-3

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What are the “beatitudes”?

- Statements of blessing in the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessings that are available in the present.
 - *Matthew 4:17, 23*
- Not “to-do's,” but “He-does.”

Who are the “poor in spirit” that receive the kingdom?

- Those who the world thinks can't understand the message.
 - *Matthew 19:13-15*
- Those whose present circumstances make them seem useless.
 - *Luke 4:18-19; Psalm 40:17*
- Those who the law says are too evil.
 - *Matthew 21:28-32; Colossians 3:11*

The kingdom is not for those with the right position,

but with the right posture.

- *Jonah 3:10 - 4:3; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Luke 18:9-14*

On Your Own (better with others)

1. Read Matthew 19:13-15 and Matthew 21:28-32. What is surprising about who may enter the kingdom of God? How is this different than what the world thought? Which people or groups of people might Jesus use as examples today that would surprise us?
2. Read Matthew 5:1-12. Have you read this list as a “to-do” list before? How does your perspective change when you see it as a list of the blessed in the kingdom being different than the perceived blessed of the earth?
3. Are there certain people that you would rather not see forgiven (like Jonah)? Or would rather not see in the kingdom? Are you brave enough to name them and repent? How would regularly acknowledging “who you once were” (1 Cor. 6:10) help?
4. Where in your life have you emphasized having the right position instead of the right posture? What would a proper posture look like in your own walk with God? In your relationships with fellow believers? In your relationships with the “poor in spirit” who don't know Jesus?