Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

By

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Pride has been the downfall of man since the beginning of time.

Man as a whole has always thought that he knew better, was self sufficient and could make decisions independent of God

Man thought that he rather than God knew what was best for him.

Humility is essential in man’s return to God, for in humility he renounces any idea that he is self sufficient in knowledge and righteousness.

Matthew 5: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Poor can be looked at in two ways:

1.There are the poor who lacked wealth and for whom life was a struggle

2. There were also the poor who literally had nothing, they were in abject poverty, “in imminent danger of real starvation.” They had no man to whom they could look to and could only look to God.

The poor in spirit were the spiritual beggars who had abandoned pride and the sense of self-sufficiency in knowledge or in righteousness.

These people were acutely aware of their own spiritual bankruptcy. They realized that God and God alone could fix their spiritual problems.

Therefore they were willing to seek after God’s will and not their own.

Pride is an effort by man to dethrone God and put themselves in charge.

Jesus was surrounded by proud people:

Jews who boasted on their physical relationship with Abraham Matt 3: 7-12

The Pharisees trusted in themselves that they were righteous and set themselves apart from others.

Grecian Philosophers were proud of their own thought. Many thought that man was sufficient of themselves.

Through their own wisdom they could not know God’s will for man, nor could they reveal it because of their lack of knowledge.

That will has to be revealed to man by God. (I Cor. 1:18-25; 2: 6-14)

I Cor. 2:14—“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

I Cor. 1: 23,25 (23) “But we preach Christ crucified unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. (25) Because of the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

Without God man is but a mere animal.

There are those who are proud of their own moral goodness and think that because they have had family for generations that have been Christians that their life is good.

However, they themselves manifest no poverty of spirit or recognition of their own need for salvation by grace through faith which functions in submission to God.

We have to realize that without God we are helpless. Real men and women won’t accept what all the world accepts just because everyone accepts it.

In all that God requires of man, the Devil has devised some sort of substitute.

Colossians 2:18-19; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16

Some people claim through their own finite mind that the human mind cannot arrive at truth. If that is so, then how did they arrive at this universal truth.

On the flipside some claim that they are too unlearned or not smart enough to understand the Bible, therefore they are excused from learning what the Bible says.

Some think that they cannot do anything. When things are pointed out that they can do, they often times don’t do it.

Others on the other hand are proud of their humility.

True humility is the fact that we know that we are only creatures and not a supreme being, but that we have sinned and are unable through our own merit to stand justified before God.

We are not self-sufficient in knowledge, in righteousness, or in wisdom. The humble are not self-willed, self-seeking, or self-glorifying. Instead they accept God as the one whom they supremely trust, love and serve.

Although they realize that in faith they must do something in order to accept the grace of God, they understand that what they do does not earn or merit their salvation.

How to Cultivate Humility:

First: The greatness and goodness of God makes us aware of our weakness and uncleanness (Isaiah 6:1-5)

Second: Spiritual growth makes us all the more aware of how far we fall short of the perfect standard, Jesus Christ.

Third: When we see things in their true light, humility is cultivated. We realize the smallness of our knowledge, the presence of error, the littleness of our strength, the brevity and uncertainty of life.

Jesus did not mean that the Kingdom was established at that moment, but that those with poverty of spirit had the basic qualification for entrance into the kingdom. For the poor in spirit should go on to mourn because of their sins, hunger and thirst after righteousness, and find it in Christ.

The kingdom is composed of the redeemed sinners, and if one is proud in spirit it is impossible for him to acknowledge that he is truly a sinner in need of the cleansing blood of Jesus.

The fact that the kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit reveals that this is not a worldly kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom, where the citizens have realized that they have a poverty in spirit and have found the true riches of spirit in the grace of God.

The Mount of Blessings in Matthew 5 is in sharp contrast to the Valley of Woes in Matthew 23

CONCLUSION:

Is it Blessed am I? or is it: Woe unto me? We shall experience the blessing if we have poverty of spirit and follow through with that which this implies and necessitates. It is woe unto us if we feel self-righteous and refuse to turn from the course of self-sufficiency.