**April 7, 2019 “For Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” Matthew 5:1-12**

I believe it is critical for us to take an overarching look at the entire Sermon on the Mount before we delve into each section of teaching from our Lord so that we may gain a better understanding of the motivation and background of this magnificent sermon.

So, let’s step back just a little bit from our text today and take a few minutes to view the entire sermon as we begin our evaluation of Matthew 5:3… “blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The first thing we will notice is that the Sermon on the Mount reaffirms the O.T. Mosaic law contained in the Ten Commandments and adjoining Scriptures. Note how our Lord affirms that the Mosaic Law is not made void by Him be rather it is fulfilled through Him since it is the governing standard for the entire world. (Matthew 5:17-19)

Secondly, He is showing that the Law of God is not merely words written on a stone tablet but it is far more than that for it is intended to deal with the thoughts and the intents of heart. (Hebrews 8:10 and Hebrews 4:12)

Thirdly, He addresses the issues of the heart in actions, which were thought to be following the letter of the law, were in reality an example of the condition of the heart. (Matthew 5:31-32 compared to Matthew 19:8)

Fourthly, Jesus reveals the standard of righteousness in which will judge the entire world. (Matthew 5:48) What does this tell us? (Romans 3:23… “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous no… not one.”

Without this understanding, I am not sure we can really grasp the importance of what Jesus was teaching His disciples on the Mount which is still relevant to us today in 2019.

So now, with this understanding, note how Jesus addresses the subject of “happiness” for that is what the word “blessed” means.

1. The most important aspect of “blessedness”
	1. It can only be found in the kingdom of God
		1. Ephesians 1:3… all spiritual blessings in Christ
		2. Ephesians 2 4-7… showing His kindness in the ages to come
	2. Note the progression as Christians
		1. Blessed are
			1. Poor in spirit
			2. Those who mourn
			3. The gentle for they will inherit the earth
			4. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
			5. The merciful
			6. Pure in heart
			7. The peacemakers
			8. The persecuted
			9. The reviled
	3. The result
		1. They are the salt of the earth
		2. They are the light of the world
			1. Do you and I see ourselves like this?
			2. Is every action and reaction designed to
				1. Purify and preserve
				2. Shed the light of the gospel
2. So why does Jesus start out this important teaching with… “blessed are the poor in spirit?”
	1. What is He saying to us?
		1. Unless we understand and confess our spiritual poverty
			1. There is no way we can enter into the kingdom of heaven
			2. There is no way we can have fellowship with Him
	2. He came to these things (Isaiah 61:1)
		1. Bring good news to the afflicted
		2. Bind up the brokenhearted
		3. Proclaim liberty to the captives
		4. Set the prisoners free
	3. Are you and I afflicted over our sins?
	4. Are we brokenhearted over our sin?
	5. Do we want to be set free?

The only way any of that can happen is when we recognize our own spiritual poverty… there is no other way to enter into the Kingdom of God

1. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit?”
	1. Greek… “ptochos”…
		1. meaning to beg… like a beggar on the street
		2. Luke 18:9-14
		3. Isaiah 66:1-2… “but to this one I will look”
		4. Isaiah 57:15
2. For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven
	1. Here is something that belongs to
		1. Those who bow their hearts before the great King of Kings
		2. How do you do that?
			1. Compare your heart to God
			2. “be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect”
	2. Those who do that
		1. Will be blessed beyond anything this world can offer
		2. They will have peace with God, from God, and through God
		3. Starting the day… they submit to His authority in every aspect of their lives

Oh Lord you’re beautiful…