

REDEFINING HAPPINES

Part 2 - The Poor in Spirit are Happy - January 17, 2010

Matt. 5:1-12 ... When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. v.2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: **v.3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** v.4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. v.5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. v.6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. v.7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. v.8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. v.9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. v.10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. v.11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. v.12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Q#1. Why does Jesus begin with the poor in spirit?

A: This is where our journey with God begins.

Rev. 3:16-17 ... So then, because **you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. v.17 **Because you say, "I am rich**, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"—**and do not know** that **you are** wretched, miserable, **poor**, blind, and naked ...

Q#2. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

Luke 18:9-14 ... Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: v.10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. v.11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. v.12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' v.13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" v.14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other;

A: I believe I am spiritually bankrupt.

Q#3. How do I stay poor in spirit?

Is. 6:1-5 ... In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. v.2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. v.3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" v.4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. v.5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips ...

A: By experiencing God's presence everyday.