

Happiness is Humility

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 5:3.
- B. Christ promises a happiness that will not be determined by outside circumstances.
- C. We can understand blessedness when we know that God is blessed.
- D. The blessedness Jesus offered was based upon a selfless standard.
- E. Only partakers in God's nature can experience this blessedness.
- F. The Sermon on the Mount is for us.
- G. The one who lives in accordance with Jesus commandments in this sermon will be distinct.
- H. True spirituality starts on the inside and manifests itself on the outside.
- I. Blessing and woe are judgmental pronouncements

II. Poverty of spirit is the only way into the kingdom.

- A. There is very little on the self-emptying concept.
- B. Happiness is for the humble.
- C. One cannot come to God unless he or she is spiritually bankrupt.
- D. Poverty means total dependence on someone else--this one is happy. (Luke 6:20)
- E. God identifies with people who beg on the inside. (Isaiah 56:2; Psalm 34:18; 51:17; Isaiah 57:15)
- F. The poor in spirit is one who has no sense of spiritual sufficiency. (Luke 18:9, James 4:10, Isaiah 6, Judges 6:15)
- G. The hardest thing one will ever do is to admit his or her inability. (Matthew 18:26)
- H. One cannot do real happiness by oneself.

III. The result of being poor in spirit is obtaining the kingdom of heaven. Grace is here now. (Ephesians 2)

IV. Response

- A. One must lose him or herself.
- B. One must starve the flesh.

C. One must ask God.

V. How one will know he or she is poor in spirit.

A. The Spirit weans one of self. (Psalm 131)

B. One is lost in the wonder of Christ.

C. One will never complain if a person is poor in spirit.

D. One will only see the excellencies of others and the deficiencies of oneself.

E. One will spend much time in prayer.

F. One will take Christ on his terms and not his or hers.

G. One will praise and thank God for his grace. (1 Timothy 1:13)

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that the Sermon on the Mount is for the future kingdom and not for us?

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

3. Which characteristic of the person who is poor in spirit would you most like to see developed in you? Explain.
