

Lesson 1: Introduction

- Growing up, what character trait(s) were impressed on you as being most important for success in life?
- Why study the Sermon?
 - Gives a realistic picture of a _____
 - Shows how we are to be _____ from non-believers
 - Highlights _____ vs. _____ changes
 - Shows how we can have an _____ on others
- What topics are discussed in your passage from the sermon?
 - Matt 5

 - Matt 6

 - Matt 7

Context

- Matthews Gospel
 - Begins with Christ's _____
 - 5 Major _____ by Christ
 - Sermon on the Mount on Living in the Kingdom (Ch. 5-7)
 - Instructions to the 12 for Witnessing for God's Kingdom (Ch. 10)
 - Parables Describing the Kingdom (Ch. 13)
 - Instructions on Humility, Confrontation, & Forgiveness for Getting Along in the Kingdom (Ch. 18)
 - Predictions for the Future or Consummation of the Kingdom (Ch. 24, 25)
 - Ends with the _____
- Sermon on the Mount Contrasts: _____ and _____
Jesus' teaching and the _____
- Political/Social Climate
How are Jesus and Superman similar? Different?

Jesus seemed to be meeting their expectations. Mtt 4:23-25

- Key verse: 6:8 DO NOT BE LIKE THEM

Matt 5:1,2 ¹Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them, saying: “Blessed...

- Christ refused to be part of the _____!
- In the Sermon, Jesus is speaking to:
 - a) Primarily the _____
 - b) Secondarily the _____
- God wants us _____: ἰάεῦñείò
μακ-αρῶ-εε-οσ
A prolonged form of the poetical ἰῦéáñ μακκαρ (meaning the same); supremely *blest*; by extension *fortunate, well off*:—blessed, happy (X -ier).

Pretend you are reading Mtt 5-7 for the first time. Come ready to share at least five things you find shocking from this passage.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Lesson 2: Poor in Spirit

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ways of Looking at the Sermon

☛ With Foolish _____

- Seeing it as a basis for _____
Problem: the Sermon _____ us

☛ With Hopeless _____

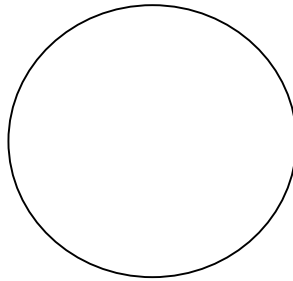
- Seeing it as an elaboration of the _____
Problem: it goes _____ the law to _____

☛ With Belief in the _____

- Seeing it as an elaboration of Christ's _____

John 13:34,35

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”



The Beatitudes

- ☛ Deal with _____ attitudes; “Beatitude Attitudes”
- ☛ Are for _____ Christians
- ☛ Are part of _____ growing
- ☛ Are _____ natural
- ☛ Are _____-cultural
- ☛ Each have wonderful _____

How might our culture describe a person with a healthy self image?

Poor in Spirit Does NOT Mean

- ☛ Nervous, _____, _____ in courage
- ☛ _____ in your poverty
- ☛ _____ your personality
- ☛ Laodicia's attitude Rev. 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

How might religion feed on our pride?

Poor in Spirit

- ☛ Regards the _____, not _____
- ☛ Deals with mans attitude toward _____
 - Contrast with what the "world" says about how we should view ourselves.
- ☛ Ptokos-- to cower and cringe like a _____
 - Beggars bow because of shame and fear
 - Totally dependent on others' gifts, no resource in self
 - Same word used in Lk 16:20

Jesus does not use the word “penes”, which refers to a person who cannot maintain a living from their wages.

The “ptokos” person can’t even make any wages!

THE PROMISE: “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

- ☛ To be experienced in the future
 - John 14:2,3
- ☛ To be experience today
 - Luke 1:53

 - Luke 18:24-27

 - Isaiah 57:15

Example: PAUL

- A.D. 55, 1 Cor 15:9 ⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
- A.D. 62, Eph 3:8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- A.D. 67, 1 Tim 1:15 ¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

Other Examples

- Gideon Jud. 6:14-16
- King David Ps. 51:17
- Peter Lk. 5:8
- Mtt 19:24
- Phil. 3:3,4,7
- II Cor. 12:9

How to Cultivate this Attitude

☛ DO NOT: become a _____

☛ DO:

- Look at past " _____ " for examples
- Look at _____: meditate on His humility
- Ask for _____! It is those who realize their own sickness who get the physician, not those who think they are well.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

☛ Since the time you acknowledged Christ as your Savior, have you allowed _____ pride to enter your life? Do you think that you deserve to be treated well _____ by God? Do you still sense your inadequacy before God? Examine yourself and make sure that your attitudes and actions reveal that you are truly poor in spirit.

☛ Regarding our relationships, what does it mean to be poor in spirit?

How should this be reflected in:

- The clothes we wear
- How we expect to be treated
- The kind of impression we want to make at work, home, and play