**Life Team Bible Study**

For the week of April 22 – Beatitudes wk 1 – Poor in Spirit

**Quick Review**: Looking back at this week’s teaching was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**HANG**

* Do you have the ability to accomplish anything you want to do? Explain your answer. Why or why not?
* What is the biggest hurdle to doing great things in life?
* What is the biggest hurdle to knowing God?

**HEAR**

This week we started a series on the Beatitudes – the word means blessings. All the “beatitudes” in Matthew 5 begin with “Blessed are the…” Jesus in the beatitudes, began to paint a picture of what it means to be a follower of His.

Read Matthew 5:3-11

* How do these stand as a direct contrast to the worlds mindset?
* Do those things sound like a blessing?
* How might they be a blessing?

**Let’s focus on one today**

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

* What kind of poverty is Jesus talking about here?
* Jesus says this is the happy m/ blessed man.
* How do you know if you are “poor in spirit?” Describe such a person.
* Why is this character quality so important to God? Or why would Jesus talk about this first?

**This verse tells us a few things. If we are going to accept the teachings of Jesus it will require Three things:**

1. **Acknowledging our needful condition**

Romans 3:9-18, Psalm 51:17

* How does a person see their spiritual poverty before God?
* Does culture surround us with messages which tell us that we can do anything we put our mind to it and nothing is impossible with a lot of hard work? How?
* How does this make seeing our deficiency difficult?

Not only do we recognize our deficiency, but we are convicted that God has and is everything we need.

1. **A total surrender to God**
* It has been said there is only one occupation exists in the kingdom of God: beggar! What do you think that means?
* How would you define poor in spirit?

Humility; Contentment; Submission; Gratitude; desperation.

1. **Dependence on God for our salvation provision**

Till we are poor in spirit we are not capable of receiving grace.

* What you think this statement Means? “You can’t be filled unless you are empty.”
* No one can enter the kingdom of God without first humbling themselves before God. Why is this so important?

**Acknowledgement of our sin - broken and bankrupt before God – our only currency at the cross is our spiritual poverty and realization of our need for salvation.**

* When one is desperate for God and poor in spirit – what does God give to them that are broken in spirit – through Jesus Christ?

Matthew 3:5, Psalm 34:18, Ecclesiastes 7:3, James 2:5, 4:6-10

* You will be close to God
* You will be given strength
* You will be glad
* You will be given the Kingdom of Heaven
* How can we guard our heart and keep a broken spirit?
* How can we combat the arrogant pride that can damage our friendship and walk with God?

The Holy Spirit alone can correct self-ignorance and arrogance; from His conviction will result genuine poverty of spirit.

**HUDDLE**

* How can a person cultivate a “poor in spirit” type of heart and life?
* What is an area of your life that you struggle with being “poor in spirit?”

**HOME**

* How will you respond to the Holy Spirit in this area?
* In what ways will you seek to guard your heart from arrogant pride and self-reliance?

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2. **Dependence on God for our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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