

# BEATITUDES

**Bertie Brits**

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## **MATTHEW 5:3 BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT**

When we read Scripture, many times we feel condemned. We sometimes feel that this Scripture contradicts the love of God and the grace of God messages that we hear Grace preachers sometimes preach. I want to read one of the passages that may sound condemning to you and just explain it in the light of Jesus Christ.

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

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? I remember thinking that poor in spirit meant, "Lay me down and kick me and walk over me. It's okay." I thought that poor in spirit was like that certain person who is soft spoken and never stands up for what he feels is right or anything like that. I'm sure you know what I am talking about. Maybe you are one of those. Then I want to say to you that the fact that you are just quiet doesn't mean that you are poor in spirit. Poor in spirit means something completely different.

The Bible also says in James 4:6 that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. What is pride? What is it to be rich in spirit and strong in spirit? What does that mean? The way I see it is that those who are not poor in spirit are those who are full of themselves and think that they don't need grace to be saved. They think of their own ability and their own works and their own patience and their own kindness and who they are in their personality. They think that by their own power they can attain to what the Bible says they must do.

I've seen people come on line and they say that the commandments of the Lord are not burdensome. Then they refer to the Ten Commandments and say, "I can do the Ten Commandments. Who can't do the Ten Commandments!" You speak to people and they say, "Well, I can, by just the decision of my will, forgive and by the decision of my will I can love and do those things. That is pride and that is to be full of the spirit of works and self righteousness.

But if you are poor in spirit, or if you are humble, that means that you are not rich in saying, 'I can do it by my own power.' But you are very poor in human ability unto salvation. So those who are just humble to them belongs the kingdom of God or eternal life.

How are we humble? We are humble by simply agreeing with what God says. When God comes and He says to you, "Let Me help you." And you say, "Yes, Lord, help me. I cannot do it by myself." I've seen it many times when I give someone a gift and he refuses the gift and says, 'No, thank you. I'm okay.' That is not humble. That is not poor in spirit. That is full of pride and then you cannot receive the gift.

So when we see this passage, let us not feel condemned by it. Let us just say, 'Well, this is just God giving His judgment, or His view and opinion, on how we will have or partake, of the kingdom of God. It will simply be by not being full of ourselves and in pride where we say that we can reach what God has dreamt for us by our own works. So let us just be poor in spirit and see your own inability. See that you cannot do it. Take a proper inventory of your works and see for yourself how rotten works righteousness is and how you are not getting it right. Be honest with yourself and come to a point where you say, "Jesus, it's either for free or it's nothing, and I receive it for free! Amen!"

## **MATTHEW 5:4 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN**

*Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

So many times we look at scriptures in the Bible and we don't understand what it means. The Bible says clearly. "Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted." We think that can mean comfort for those who are sad or comfort for those who are going through difficult times. Now, I also believe that is what it means. Sometimes we get confused because we see people go through difficult times and depression. We see people going through difficult times where loved ones passed away and it is as if they don't get comfort and yet we find this scripture that says, "Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted." So, in other words, you need to be at a place of mourning in order to be comforted.

What is this mourning and what does that refer to? What was in Jesus' mind when He said, "Blessed are those who mourn." Like I said, we think that blessed are those who feel sad for they shall basically be comforted, but what is that sadness? What was Jesus referring to?

*Isaiah 61:*

*1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

*2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of the vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

In other words, in order for this mourning to be comforted, it would not be a voice that says, "You are loved. It's okay" and a tap on the back saying, "Let me just be kind to you." No. The mourning Jesus is talking about here is it had to be a declaration of the acceptable year of the Lord which is the year of Jubilee, the year where you return to your original land and original ground where there is a declaration of innocence for all people. It's also a day of the vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn where God comes and He takes vengeance on the system where we had to live by the works of the flesh and have power by it.

So the mourning he is talking about it there are those who are tired of trying; those who are tired of being hungry for the Lord and never being satisfied; those who are tired of sowing and sowing and sowing and never reaping; those who are tired of tithing in order to be blessed and they just find that it doesn't really work; those who have had all forms of glory manifestations over their life and yet they are not seeing what God has promised. There is not that true, inner peace. I remember a time when I was just so radically hungry for the Lord. There came a time where we saw gold fall upon us. We saw signs, wonders and miracles. We saw all those kind of things.

I remember in Bible school, I would pray. I would do everything and then there came a time when I was mourning, where I was sad because none of these things worked. None of these things can bring the inner satisfaction that I believe the Gospel promised. Those who are there, those who are tired of the Law, those who are looking at the Law System and what they are in and see it as slavery to the point that they are crying about it and sad over it, they will be comforted because the message of God's vengeance against what destroys you will touch your heart. You will realize that you can move back to the original land that God has promised for you in Jesus and that He took you back to that. Glory to God! So, blessed are those who come to a place where legalism and law to be righteous is a very sad thing.

## **MATTHEW 5:5 BLESSED ARE THE MEEK**

*:5 Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.*

When the Bible says, "Blessed are the meek", it does not mean, "Blessed are those who just say, 'Well, I'm just nothing and I cannot stand up for myself. I cannot make a point or differ from someone.'" What it talks about there is those who are humble enough to receive the correction of the Lord, they will inherit the earth. When it talks about the meek, it talks about those who are humble and can agree with the Lord.

We need to realize that the word of Jesus is actually very harsh towards those who seek righteousness by their own works. It will tell them, "You, by your works, you are worth nothing. You, by your works, can never succeed. You, by your own works, are only good for destruction. You will not have eternal life! You will not inherit the earth. You will be called hypocrites. Your works will be called filthy rags!"

So, those who can come and hear what Jesus is actually saying and say to the Lord, "Lord, I come and agree with You that I cannot be saved by my own works and I am humble enough to just receive what You want to give me. It's Your gift to me." Those who can say that will inherit the earth.

Most of our theology today is not about "We will inherit the earth." It is that we will go to heaven and we will lose whatever we inherited on the earth. That is just crazy! No, those who are humble will inherit the earth. The inheritance of the righteous and the believer, is immortality in a glorified planet, a physical planet. That is our inheritance.

## **MATTHEW 5:6 THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

The second point I want to make is in verse 6: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled." In other words, if you are in a place, under the Law, where you say, "It doesn't matter how good I work, I am still hungering for righteousness!" By saying that, you are saying, "This Law System cannot fill me! This Law System cannot bless me! This Law System cannot give me what I actually want! It doesn't produce life to me!" It's like eating a big meal and after you have eaten, you say, "This doesn't satisfy. I'm still hungering for something. This was not good enough."

Blessed are those who can come to the acknowledgment that the "blessings" under the Law is not it! It leaves you hungry, unsatisfied. "For they shall be filled."

You will be at a place when you see the true Gospel, when you see Jesus coming offering eternal life as a free gift, you will be at the place where you will easily receive that.

Jesus comes and He says, "Blessed are those who can easily accept the Good News and not want to see themselves glorified by their own works. Blessed are those who are in this Work System and are simply just tired of it and left hungry, saying, "It cannot satisfy me!" When we come to these Beatitudes. let us always read it in the light of the finished work of Jesus.

I want to say to you, "Let us continue to look at the Grace message and be humble and say, "Lord, I accept eternal life as a free gift. I accept holiness as a free gift. I accept righteousness as a free gift, for by my works I can never be satisfied! Glory to God!"

### **Matthew 5: 7-9**

*7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

*8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

*9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

Now when we look at this passage, we can easily be condemned in thinking if we don't show mercy then God will refuse to be merciful to us one day and He's going to throw us in hell and burn us in hell. If our heart is not pure all the time, meaning if we don't have pure motives all the time, then we shall never see God. Then we can really condemn ourselves because who of us has pure motives all the time? Whose heart is pure all the time. It all depends on what measure you use. If the measure is the works of the Law and pure thoughts are never thinking anything wrong, then nobody will ever see God!

Even as I preach now some of you will think, "Who is this guy!" or whatever. You can disqualify yourself. Others will look at other preachers who may have preached the Law and you would look at him and have a wrong thought in your heart about that person and then you will say, "Oh, how will I ever see God!"

So it says, "Blessed are the merciful; Blessed are the pure in heart and Blessed are the peacemakers." It doesn't mean that you must go and be merciful in order for God to be merciful to you. It doesn't mean that you must never think a wrong thought in order for you to see God. Neither does it mean that you must go and make peace or other words you will not be called a child of God.

What this talks about, this is the easiest way that I can say it: If you are tuned into channel mercy, you will easily receive what God has said. In other words, if you are a person that says, "Mercy is better than judgment. It's better to be merciful to somebody than just to judge and punish." If that is a logic to you, even if you don't do it all the time but that is just logical to you. I look at myself. There were times where you would say, "Well, let justice have its way" but in your heart you wish it couldn't be that way, it shouldn't be that way. You just want mercy on everybody and give them another chance so they could have life. If that is the inclination it will be very easy for you to see the mercy of God because God is that kind of a being. If you are a being that has no place for mercy, it would be very difficult for you to see God or to basically to receive mercy because that is who God is. He is a merciful God.

It goes on and says, "Blessed are the pure in heart;" The way that I see pure in heart is blessed are those whose belief has been washed from the Law System. "Blessed are those whose Belief System has been washed from the Law System." That is a pure heart. What makes our hearts dirty is a wrong belief. So, when we have the Works Righteousness System washed from our hearts and we can see the True belief, we will see God. That is it! We will see God. Glory to God!

:8 Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God. Children of God means those who will have eternal life and those whose life is born from God. They are the peacemakers. It doesn't mean that you need to make peace to have that. It means that if you, in your heart, can believe and can see that God has united mankind with Him in Jesus, you are a peace maker. Then you shall be called the children of God and I believe that is connected with Romans 8 where it talks about the adoption and we are the peace makers where we say, "There is no difference between Jew and Gentile. God has made peace between the two by taking away the sin of the whole world

Those who can see that were called the children of God. How? By the glorification and the immortality

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