

SERMON STUDY NOTES

14th July 2019

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

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

1. How would you define the word happy? What makes you happy?
2. When people are *poor in spirit*, they are ready to listen to God. They are willing to give up on “their own will” and trust God’s will for their lives. Would you define yourself as being happy in this sense?
3. For many people, the idea of finding happiness is based on the right circumstances. "When I get a good job, "When I get married " "When I have children, " When the children leave home.... Do you have any thoughts or hopes like that?
4. We often think that our outward circumstances bring contentment. But Jesus states, that happiness comes from within. Discuss.
5. Jesus is not talking about putting ourselves down like those who say "*I'm useless, I'm hopeless.*" Do you know people like this? Discuss
6. Sometimes we can use self-depreciation as a way of elevating themselves. In giving honour to God we can sometimes honour ourselves. Can you give an example of how this can happen?

7. Poor in Spirit means realizing our spiritual deficiencies & *being totally dependent on God*. It is the same word used for a beggar who has absolutely nothing - no clothes, no food, and no money. Do you think that many Christians today are able to make this level of commitment?

Joyce Meyer has lists 10 character traits of a humble person. How do you measure up?

1. The humble can ask for help, and don't insist on everything being done their way.
2. They're quick to forgive, difficult to offend, & happy to wait on God to be their vindicator .
3. They're patient and don't get frustrated with the weaknesses of others (Galatians 6:2).
4. The humble person is a peacemaker: Humility maintains peace in our lives. Romans 12:
5. A humble person knows when to be quiet and allow others to have centre stage.
6. A humble person sees their own weaknesses and can readily admit them.
7. A humble person happily serves other people, and don't do it to be noticed. They do it unto the Lord, knowing their reward will come from God.
8. A humble person is thankful. Living with an attitude of gratitude, releases joy & power into our lives.
9. A humble person has a tender conscience and is quick to repent. Eph 2:8-9 confession of our failure, can help us enter into joy.

10. A leader who is truly humble treats everyone with respect.

Like the obedient child who benefits from his parent's provision...the poor in spirit have Jesus as their king - and don't need to try and rule, themselves. Pray for each other.