

Celebration and Worship

Sunday, August 5, 2007

For your benefit, as well as for those around you, we offer child-care for birth - three year old. An usher/greeter will assist you to the preschool area. Our Sunday morning service is broadcast weekly at 11:00 a.m. on WKXX, 102.9 FM. **Please turn off your cell phones during service time.**

HAPPINESS IS SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY

When He saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. Then He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, because they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, because they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:1-12 HCSB)

He looked up and saw the rich dropping their offerings into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor (needy) widow dropping in two tiny coins. "I tell you the truth," He said. "This poor (reduced to begging) widow has put in more than all of them. For all these people have put in gifts out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4 HCSB)

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you. (James 4:6, 10 HCSB)

The Lord is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit. (Psalms 34:18 HCSB)

The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken and humbled heart. (Psalms 51:17 HCSB)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: "Two men went up to

the temple complex to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee took his stand and was praying like this: ‘God, I thank You that I’m not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.’ ‘But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, ‘God, turn Your wrath from me—a sinner!’ I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other; because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”
(Luke 18:9-14 HCSB)

Pastor’s Suggested Daily Bible Reading...

Monday	August 6	2 Corinthians 7
Tuesday	August 7	2 Corinthians 8
Wednesday	August 8	2 Corinthians 9
Thursday	August 9	2 Corinthians 10
Friday	August 10	2 Corinthians 11
Saturday	August 11	Psalms 92, 93
Sunday	August 12	Psalms 94

**HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN I AM POOR IN SPIRIT?
Take inventory of these seven characteristics.¹**

1. You will be weaned from yourself (Psalm 131:2). One who is poor in spirit loses a sense of self. Your thoughts are on God and His glory and about others and their needs.
2. You will be lost in the wonder of Christ, gazing at His glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). You will be saying, like Philip, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us” (John 14:18). You will be saying with David, “I will be satisfied with you likeness when I awake” (Psalm 17:15).
3. You will never complain about your situation. Why? You don’t deserve anything anyway, right? What have you to offer? In fact, the deeper you go, the sweeter the grace. The more you need, the more abundantly He provides. When you lack everything, you’re in a position to receive all grace. There are no distractions. You will suffer

¹ Foundations of Faith: The Only Way to Happiness, John MacArthur

without murmuring, because you deserve nothing; yet, at the same time, you will seek His grace.

4. You will see only the excellencies of others and only your own weaknesses. Truly humble is the one who has to look up to everyone else.
5. You will be spending much more time in prayer. Why? Because a beggar is always begging. He knocks often at heaven's gate, and he doesn't let go until he's blessed.
6. You will find yourself taking Christ on His terms, not yours. The one poor in spirit is so desperate that he will give up anything just to get to Christ.
7. You will be praising and thanking God for His grace. A characteristic of a person poor in spirit is an overwhelming gratitude to God. Every single thing you have is a gift from Him.

How do you measure up? If you see that you're not measuring up at all, then you are on your way to true happiness. "Blessed are the poor in spirit."