

Sunday – March 2, 2025 – Communion Sunday



***“Blessed are the Poor Spirited, for Theirs is
the Kingdom of Heaven”
Matthew 5:3***

People who climb mountains fascinate us. Not the normal hiking types, but those who hike the extreme peaks- Everest, Kilimanjaro and other places that seem unreachable. They strive to get to the top, and yet those who make the ascent talk about the debris and bodies that are left on the path to summit. In our culture we are taught to climb high. Jesus’ teachings in the gospel highlight that in his kingdom the road to top starts by climbing to the bottom.

Key Verse. *“From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17)*

Matthew’s gospel contains Jesus most famous, and most referred to sermon, “The Sermon on the Mount.” In *Matthew 5-7* Jesus gives very explicit instructions about the kind of life his disciples should live. Before he describes behaviors, he describes what our hearts should be. “The Beatitudes” contain 8 heart attitudes of a disciple. This is his introduction to the rest of “The Sermon.”

Read *Matthew 5:1-12* three times slowly in succession. As you slow down and read these beatitudes, do you notice any pattern to them? Does anything in particular strike you about the flow of thought?

Read *Matthew 4:17*. How do the beatitudes expand upon what Jesus says is purpose of his ministry?

Read *Proverbs 6:16-19*. What comparisons can you make between the proverbs passage and the beatitudes?

When you read the phrase, “poor in spirit” what thoughts, images come to your mind? How does this line up with what the context is in Jesus’ sermon?

Read *Romans 7:18, Isaiah 6:5, Psalm 51:17, Job 42:5-6*. What common theme do all these writers communicate about their spiritual state? How do they compare with how I see my spiritual state?

“The greatest antidote low self-esteem is to recognize that in my imperfect life, that the God of all creation says, ‘you are loved more than you know.’ Do you agree or disagree with this statement? How does “poor in spirit” reflect on this thought?

Poor in spirit is a sense of powerlessness and spiritual bankruptcy that brings me to my knees before God so he can lift me up so I can kneel before others. It is where every disciple of Jesus lives every day.

THIS WEEK:

- Where am I in my journey as a disciple of Jesus?
- Am I ready to step down so he can lift me up?

Next Week: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”
(Matthew 5:4)