

The Riches of Being Poor

“One day as He saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around Him, and He began to teach them.

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”
- Matthew 5:1-3

1. Blessed People

Happiness means:

“good fortune; pleasure; contentment; joy; delight.”

From “Happenstance and happenstance”

- Pleasure that comes from my circumstances.

Blessed means: (Μακαριοι, makarioi)

“consecrated; sacred; holy; divinely favoured; blissfully contented”

- God wants to give you an “inner island of contentedness”

Do I really want happiness or blessedness?

2. Poor in Spirit

A. The meaning of “poor” - (τοκος, tokas)

- It means absolute poverty. Having nothing.

B. The meaning of “poor in spirit”

- It means being poverty stricken in spirit.
- Recognizing that apart from God I have nothing.

C. Blessedness is found through stewardship

“You are not your own, you were bought at a price.”

- 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

3. Blessing is Found in Stewardship

Poor in Spirit

or

Proud in Spirit

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • blessed 'cause they own nothing | • seek happiness through ownership |
| • secure foundation – Jesus | • unstable foundation – lost easily |
| • sees God’s gigantic kingdom | • seeks own kingdom – world small |
| • released from threats (not mine) | • threat by changing circumstances |
| • God’s love casts out fear | • lives in fear, limited love |

4. Promised Blessings: The Kingdom of God

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and **sold all he had** and bought that field.*

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything he had** and bought it.”*
– Matthew 13:44,45

- Would you give everything you have to have Jesus?

Application Project:

1. What do I possess that I have not yet given to God?
What keeps me from giving it to Him?
2. Do Christians tend to be contented people? Why or why not?
3. What keeps me from being a more contented Christ-follower?
4. What can I do to develop a mind-set that is “poor in spirit” rather than “proud in spirit”?

The Riches of Being Poor

“One day as He saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around Him, and He began to teach them.

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”
- Matthew 5:1-3

1. Blessed People

Happiness means:

“good _____; pleasure; contentment; joy; delight.”

From “Happenstance and happenstance”

- Pleasure that comes from my _____.

Blessed means: (Μακαριοι, makarioi)

“consecrated; sacred; holy; _____favoured;
blissfully contented”

Pleasure or contentment that is _____ - _____.

So, is what I really want happiness or blessedness?

2. Poor in Spirit

A. The meaning of “poor” - (τοκος, tokas)

- It means absolute _____. Having _____.

B. The meaning of “poor in spirit”

- It means being poverty stricken _____.
- Recognizing that apart from God I have nothing.

C. Blessedness is found through _____.

“You are not your own, you were bought at a price.” - 1 Cor. 6:19,20

3. Blessing is Found in Stewardship

Poor in Spirit

or

Proud in Spirit

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • blessed 'cause they own nothing | • seek happiness through ownership |
| • secure foundation – Jesus | • unstable foundation – lost easily |
| • sees God’s gigantic kingdom | • seeks own kingdom – world small |
| • released from threats (not mine) | • threat by changing circumstances |
| • God’s love casts out fear | • lives in fear, limited love |

4. Promised Blessings: The Kingdom of God

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and **sold all he had** and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything he had** and bought it.”
– Matthew 13:44,45

Would I give _____ I have to have _____?

Application Project:

1. What do I possess that I have not yet given to God?
What keeps me from giving it to Him?
2. Do Christians tend to be contented people? Why or why not?
3. What keeps me from being a more contented Christ-follower?
4. What can I do to develop a mind-set that is “poor in spirit” rather than “proud in spirit”?