

Osceola Sermon The Beatitudes
Blessed are the Poor In Spirit
Pastor Bob Vale / January 1st, 2011
Communion Sunday

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

Scripture Lesson: **MT 5:1 "Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them, saying: MT 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service:

Hymn of Praise: # 451 Be Thou My Vision

Prayer Chorus: # 393 Spirit of the Living God

Communion:

11:00 a.m. Solid Praise Contemporary Service:

Opening Song: Come Now is the Time to Worship

2. Blessed Be Your Name

Scripture: I Peter 5:7

3. I cast all my cares upon you!!!

Communion:

The **Sermon on the Mount** is a collection of sayings and teachings of Jesus, which emphasizes Christ moral teachings found in the Gospel of Matthew (chapters 5, 6 and 7). These Chapters in Matthew take place relatively early in the ministry of Jesus after he was baptized by John the Baptist and preached in Galilee.

The Sermon on the Mount is the longest piece of teaching from Jesus in the New Testament, and has been one of the most widely quoted elements of the Gospels. It includes some of the best known teachings of Jesus such as the Beatitudes, and the widely recited Lord's Prayer. To most Christian believers, the Sermon on the Mount contains the central tenets of Christian Discipleship. (love all, put others before yourself, forgive as the Lord forgave you.)

At this point in Jesus ministry, He had his 12 disciples and was going throughout the countryside preaching and teaching around the Sea of Galilee.



This is perhaps the hill side where Jesus preached from beside the Sea of Galilee.



1. **What was Taught:** A startling new meaning to a changed life:
 - " Blessed are the poor in spirit...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
 - " Blessed are those who mourn...for they will be comforted."
 - " Blessed are the meek...for they shall inherit the earth."
 - " Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...for they shall be filled."
 - " Blessed are the merciful...for they shall be given mercy."
 - " Blessed are the pure in heart...for they shall see God."
 - " Blessed are the peacemakers...for they shall be called the sons of God."
 - " Blessed are those who are persecuted...because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The Sermon on the Mount is a sermon of opposites:

Humility vs. Pride & Arrogance

Jesus was teaching on a plain meadow just off of the Sea of Galilee. It was not in a magnificent Roman Amphitheater. The Roman view of speaking in public was to be heard or teach philosophy in Rome. The Jewish view was to teach at the temple and have the people come to see you rather than you go out among the people to see the people.

Jesus lived and taught with the people in the villages. He hung out with the sinners and everyday people and was not a rabbi at the local Synagogue and Temple.

I think there is a lesson in this: If we think we are going to change the world for Christ by only asking folks to come to our sanctuary for a Sunday morning worship service, perhaps we are missing Jesus point. (We need to go out where they are.)

John Wesley was a believer in this. He was not a great preacher of the Church of England's churches. (Early in his ministry most folks did not want him preaching in their churches; he was not afraid at all to begin listing the sins of the congregation members.) John Wesley's greatest success was in preaching to the thousands of Coal Miners as they got off of work. He went to see them and did not wait for them to get cleaned up and dressed in their finest to hear him speak at the large stone church.

John Wesley talked folks into having Sunday School classes in their homes and asked them to invite their neighbors into their homes, rather than have studies inside the church building.

If we are going to reach our community for Christ..... we need to.....

1. We need to deliver food baskets and gifts to 34 families in our community in the name of Christ love, peace and social justice.
2. We need to open our church doors to A.A., Real Services, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, we need to start up the church buses and pick children up at their homes and teach them the Bible on Wednesday evenings. (Feed them if necessary.)
3. We need to participate in the local Blue Grass Festival, Memorial Day Parade, collect coins in baby bottles for the Hannah's House Ministry, cook meals for Hope Rescue Mission, meet teens where they are at in their lives at school.
4. **Instead of bringing in the sheaves** we need to go out and do some **fishing!!!! Amen!** (Let's just let God work on them in His time and not try to fillet them in our effort to clean them up!)

The Bible says that Jesus was sitting and not standing.

The Roman view of authority was to be standing for a position of authority.

The entire setting for such a great sermon is so opposite for the day and times of the Romans and the religious elite.

Jesus will never force his way into your life. He gently sits with you and talks about love, peace and forgiveness. It is up to us to accept or reject.

Jesus begins his sermon with the words **Blessed are.**

The word "**beatitude**" comes from the Latin *beatitudo*, meaning "blessedness." The phrase "blessed are" in each of the beatitudes implies a *current* state of happiness or well-being.

The expression held powerful meaning of "divine joy and perfect happiness" to the people of the day. In other words, Jesus was saying "**divinely happy and fortunate are those who possess these inward qualities.**" While speaking of a current "blessedness," each pronouncement also promises **a future reward.**

We have our own type of blessings in our culture.

Good Luck, God Speed, Happy Trails, have a great week. (Somewhat pale in comparison to Jesus beatitudes.)

I've heard it said: Lord, in 2012 may you bless me with a heavy bank account and a thin body. (Last year things seemed a bit reversed.)

My grandmother had an Irish saying in a frame in her house: May the roads rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; The rain fall soft upon your fields And, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

My grandfather had a shorter Irish blessing on the wall of his garage: "My you be 30 minutes in heaven before the devil knows your dead."

Jesus blessing was for being Poor in Spirit.

Have you ever heard anyone say, "Isn't it just so wonderful that you are so sad and depressed? You are so very lucky!"

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

What was Jesus trying to say here?

Jesus was preaching to everyday folks with everyday hurts and frustrations. Life was hard 2,000 years ago.

1. People starved from hunger.
2. Diseases of many kinds could take your life or that of a loved one.
3. The average lifespan was only 32 at the time of Christ.
4. They were under occupation from the Romans: As Americans we have no idea what it would be like to live under the occupation of another people or government telling us what to do.

5. If a Roman soldier saw you walking down the road. He could come up to you and demand that you carry his pack for one mile. (that's enough to make anyone happy.)

Perhaps many people were simply poor in spirit. **Jesus knew this.**

Jesus was a prophet of Hope!

Better days are coming.....one day God will call you home and you will go to heaven.

John 14:1-4 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus continues to be a prophet of hope today in our lives:

1. (Matt. 28:20) I am with you always.
2. (I John 1:9) Your Sins are forgiven.
3. (Matt. 6:10) I hear and will answer your prayers.
4. (Matt 5:4) I will comfort you.
5. (John 10:10) I have come to give you abundant life.
6. (Luke 23:43) Today you will be with me in paradise.
7. (John 14:27) Our fears will be cast out:

Jesus set two opposites in this verse: Being **Poor in Spirit** and the **Kingdom of Heaven!**

One is **difficult** the other is **wonderful**.

One is **temporary** the other is **everlasting**.

One **sheds tears of sadness** the other **give shouts of joy**.

One is a place **we don't want to be** and the other **we long & hope for**.

Jesus is telling us two things:

First, if you find yourself in a situation of being Poor in Spirit.....

1. Jesus says, I am with you in your sadness. (I Peter 5:7 "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you!")
2. God's Love will never leave us or forsake us: Romans 8:35-41 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ^{RO 8:37} No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all

creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Secondly, Jesus wants us to know, He has a better plan for you. My Kingdom here on earth called the abundant Christian life and My Kingdom in heaven for all eternity.

Luke 21:27-28 "At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and **lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**"

The latter part of our scripture today says: **Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!!!**

For the hurting spirit....God wants to care for your and lead you to heaven.

But by the Grace of God do we meet the Lord.

A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. The man asked St. Peter, "How do I get into heaven? Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about all the good things you've done on earth in your lifetime. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more, you can come in."

"Well," says the man. "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved with a prison ministry for twenty-five years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with the prisoners."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points!"

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, **it'll be only by the grace of God that I'll ever get into this place.**"

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Jesus already paid your price on a cross 2,000 years ago. Come on in."

Another way to get into heaven.

A wife and husband were happily married for 50 years and she passed away and went into heaven. Upon walking up to the pearly gates she met St. Peter. St. Peter

greeted her with a welcome. As she looked through the pearly gates she saw all the beauty of the streets of gold, the alabaster buildings and the crystal sea.

She asked St. Peter, what do I need to do to get into heaven? St. Peter said, 'oh that is easy, all you need to do is spell the greatest word in the gospels.' "Love." The woman quickly spelled L.o.v.e. and St. Peter said, "Welcome in."

The woman walked through the pearly gates & thoroughly enjoyed heaven and eagerly awaited her husband to arrive to heaven with her one day. About 10 years later, that same woman was talking to St. Peter at the pearly gates, waiting for her husband. Part way through the conversation St. Peter asked the woman if she could stand post of the pearly gate while he took a break and ran an errand for the Lord.

The woman was a bit nervous and said, Oh St. Peter, I don't think I could do that important job. St. Peter reminded her, "Oh it's easy, all they have to do is spell the greatest word in the gospel...."Love." The woman reluctantly agreed and took her post.

While she was attending to the Pearly gates, guess who finally arrived. It was her dear husband she had been missing for so long. They hugged and greeted each other. He also peeked through the pearly gates and noticed the beautiful streets of gold, alabaster buildings and crystal sea. He could hardly wait to get in. He asked her, what do I have to do to get past those pearly gates. His wife, said, I'll get to that in a minute....what took you so long?

She asked him, what had he been doing for the past 10 years? He gave a big smile and said, Honey you are not going to believe how wonderful life has been since you passed on.

Do you remember that pretty little nurse that was caring for you in the hospital just before you died. As luck would have it, she was also a widow as we got married three months after the funeral. About a month into our wedding we won ten million dollars in the state lottery and had more money than we knew what to do with. We bought a big house on the beach and enjoyed each and every day in complete luxury. Life was great those last 10 years of my life. I knew you would have been happy for me.

By the way honey, what do I have to do to get into heaven past those pearly gates? The wife quickly said, oh that's easy dear, all you have to do is spell the word, "Czechoslovakia!"

"Blessed are the poor in spirit....for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Perhaps there is someone here today who is Poor In Spirit.

The Lord Be with you!

The words of the sermon on the mount are life changing....if you will listen and ask God to speak to you.

Illustration: Many years ago in a Moscow theater, matinee idol Alexander Rostovzev was converted while playing the role of Jesus in a sacrilegious play entitled Christ in a Tuxedo. He was supposed to read two verses from the Sermon on the Mount, remove his gown, and cry out, "Give me my tuxedo and top hat!" But as he read the words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," he began to tremble. Instead of following the script, he kept reading from Matthew 5, ignoring the coughs, calls, and foot-stamping of his fellow actors. Finally, recalling a verse he had learned in his childhood in a Russian Orthodox church, he cried, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom!" (Luke 23:42). Before the curtain could be lowered, Rostovzev had trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Let's Pray

Sermon Notes: Pastor Bob Vale / Jan. 1st, 2012 / Mt. 5:1 - 5:3

The Sermon on the Mount is a challenge of opposites:

We need to go out to the people rather than only invite them in:

Definition: The word "**beatitude**" comes from the Latin *beatitudo*, meaning "blessedness." The phrase "blessed are" in each of the beatitudes implies a *current* state of happiness or well-being.

The poor in spirit was a common occurrence in Jesus day:

Jesus was and is a prophet of Hope:

Jesus says, I am with you in your sadness. (I Peter 5:7 "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you!")

Jesus offers us Heaven: