

The Poor And Mourning

Matthew 5:3-4

*Your
Kingdom
Come*

WEEK 2

☑ OPEN

Christ's journey to the cross gives us a window into how God works and is present in the world. While we look for and celebrate riches and joy, Christ opens His sermon on the mount by blessing the poor in spirit and those who mourn. These are the ones on whom God's favour rests. Do we see ourselves as blessed by God when we feel empty and at the end of our rope? Do we recognize the blessing and presence of God with us when we feel broken by the darkness in ourselves and in this world? These are those that Christ sees as ready and longing for His Kingdom to come. Let's explore why these are those blessed by God and how we're the world's salt and light when we're poor in spirit and when we mourn.

SHARE & RECONNECT

- Share a time when you knew you #blessed by God. As people share, what common themes do you see in how we label someone or something as "blessed"?
 - What's similar between your blessings and Christ's Beatitudes?
 - What's different?

READING

- **Read Matthew 5:1-4.**
 - Start with the word, "blessed." What does this mean? How would you explain to someone what it means to be "blessed"?
 - How does the second half of each verse help us understand why the "poor in spirit" and those who "mourn" are blessed?

REFLECT

- **The poor in spirit**—Can we be rich in this world and still be poor in spirit, able to inherit the kingdom of heaven?
 - What's a God honouring way to respond to both wealth or poverty? What dangers to our spirits can both wealth or poverty represent?
 - Paul thinks this is the first Beatitude because everything else flows from it. Do you think he's right? Why? Why not?
- **Those who mourn**—Jesus smiles upon the sad.
 - What is it mourning that both draws people to Christ's Kingdom and bears witness to Christ's Kingdom?
 - How would you think about what Christ says here with a verse like Philippians 4:6 - "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

"The Christian is to be the truest realist. He reasons that death is there, and must be faced. God is there, and will be known by all as Saviour or Judge. Sin is there, and it is unspeakably ugly and black in light of God's purity. Eternity is there, and every living human being is rushing toward it. God's revelation is there, and the alternatives it presents will come to pass: life or death, pardon or condemnation, heaven or hell. These are realities which will not go away. The man who lives in light of them, and rightly assesses himself and his world in light of them, cannot but mourn. He mourns for the sins and blasphemies of his nation. He mourns for the erosion of the very concept of truth. He mourns over the greed, the cynicism, the lack of integrity. He mourns that there are so few mourners."

—D.A. Carson

PRAY

Both the poor in spirit and those who mourn are drawn to prayer because they recognize in themselves and others the disconnect between our lives now and the life coming in Christ's Kingdom. Who can you pray for who might need to know that they are blessed by God in their poverty of spirit and in their mourning?

To be blessed means to have God's favour on us. God smiles upon us and God is with us. Pray that God would give you wisdom to know who needs you to show up and give a tangible expression of God's blessing to them in their poverty and sorrow.

Pray for those who are unaware of their spiritual poverty and unwilling to acknowledge their tragic state before God. Pray that God might open their eyes by His Spirit to see the goodness and glory of Christ's Kingdom and the emptiness of all else.