

Blessings: The Blessing of Poverty Matthew 5:3

Opening Discussion:

1. What do words and their usage tell us about a culture?
2. How do words and their usage in a culture reflect the culture while also shaping the culture?
3. What do these stats tell us about the culture of the United States? According to data provided by Google Books, the use of the word “blessed” has fallen by 75% since 1828. The use of “happy” has decreased by 47% while in the same time “humility” and “humble” have decreased by 73% and 83% respectively and the use of the word “self” has increased by 185%.
4. What does Jesus say about the path to happiness?

**The path to true joy and lasting happiness is the path of _____ and
humble _____ to God.**

Overview of the Blessing Statements:

The blessing statements are eight paradoxical statements with a similar structure: a declaration of blessing followed by a condition, which is followed by a reward for the condition.

A paradox is the intentional intersection of apparent _____ used to
_____ truth.

As an introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, these statements describe the
_____ attitudes that lead to righteous _____

“The beatitudes are like an oversized set of clothes we are growing into.” Robert Smith

The First Blessing Statement:

1. _____ are

The word translated “blessed” means more than just happy, but it doesn’t mean less than happy! Blessed is the state of deep joy and happiness that results from the good gifts of God.

2. The _____ in _____

The poor in spirit are those who recognize their need for God.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him.” Matthew 5:3, NLT

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” 1 Timothy 6:17

*“How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”
Mark 10:23*

3. For theirs _____

The first blessing statement is a present promise. We enjoy some of the kingdom now, and some are will be enjoyed in the future. The future kingdom blessings come from the present reality of possessing the kingdom.

4. The _____ of _____

- The kingdom of heaven is everything and everyone submitted to the rule of God.
- Because it is submitted to the rule of God, the kingdom enjoys all of the blessings of God’s rule, and it is an existence free from the impacts of sin.
- At the return of Christ, God’s kingdom is coming to earth completely and eternally.

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15

Fill in the Blank Answers

Introduction:

The path to true joy and lasting happiness is the path of brokenness and humble submission to God.

Overview:

A paradox is the intentional intersection of apparent contradictions used to communicate truth.

As an introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, these statements describe the root attitudes that lead to righteous fruit.

The First Blessing Statement: Blessed, poor, spirit, is, kingdom, heaven