

The Poor in Spirit

Nov. 3, 2019

“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.” Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

The **crowd** is basically a neutral, curious group of people who are astounded by Jesus’ teaching and ministry but have not yet made a commitment to Him.

The **disciples** are those who have made a commitment to Jesus as the Messiah.

Sermon on the Mount

- A. Not somehow the entrance requirements for being accepted into Kingdom.
- B. Not some impossible idealized life.
- C. Not for some select few super-spiritual elite.
- D. Not a description of a future age.

Makarios

“Makarios is a state of existence in relationship to God in which a person is “blessed” from God’s perspective even when he or she doesn’t feel happy or isn’t presently experiencing good fortune. This does not mean a conferral of blessing or an exhortation to live a life worthy of blessing; rather, it is an acknowledgment that the ones indicated are blessed. Negative feelings, absence of feelings, or adverse conditions cannot take away the blessedness of those who exist in relationship with God.” NIV Application Commentary

Beatitudes

These are not just an introduction to the Sermon on the Mount; rather, they are a summary statement on the entire message itself and show how the Kingdom impacts those who respond to it in a way running nearly exactly opposite of the values of contemporary culture.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3 (NIV)
