

Living the Good Life: Blessed Are The Poor in Spirit

June 1, 2014 Matthew 5:3 by Ben Skeat
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 2

Main Idea: When we recognize our utter helplessness and in that helplessness to turn to God, Gods kingdom invades our circumstances.

Blessed definition: Life lived in the knowledge that God is good, he knows what is good for His people AND is acting accordingly

- Actively blessing, not passively dispensing (person vs holy relic)
- Result is emotional states such as happiness, joy, contentment, peace etc...
- BUT these emotions transcend the physical reality that we find ourselves in

Further reading (non-exhaustive list): Psalm 84:11-12, Malachi 3:10-12, Job 5:17, Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 146:5-9, Job 1:17

1. We find the good life when we SURRENDER.

Come to the end of yourself, and honestly admit it.

Recognize that this stems from the fact that you are the most helpless of them all. Not that you are a failure as a person. (1 Tim 1:15)

Make your choices as if God is good, he knows what is good for you, and is actively working this goodness out (James 1:18)

Look for what God is doing in your life and participate in the process

- **What is being asked for?** *Be doers of the word (James 1:22)*
- **What is being taken away?** *The Lord gave me everything I had, and they were his to take away... (Job 1:17)*
- **What are you being taught?** *Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life... (Prov. 10:17)*
- **What do you need to ask for?** *What would you have me do for you? (Mark 10:51)*

2. We find the good life when we surrender our STUFF and SUCCESS.

The simplicity of poverty vs. the overcrowding that a love of stuff brings into our lives.

We over contextualize Jesus words at our peril. Eg. Story of rich young ruler actually IS about wealth (Mark 10:17-27)

Desire for wealth and personal success will develop a strangle hold on our hearts affections- and these belong to Jesus alone.

3. We find the good life when we surrender our SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

God alone is good. We are not. (Psalm 119:68)

There is no more earning: *God gives to those who serve him, his free gift is eternal life... (Rom 6:31)*

- No acceptance withheld pending good behavior
- No control given over to us because we've shown ourselves worthy

There is no more being "right": *He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt... (Luke 18:9-14)*

- We have been shown mercy, therefore we show mercy (Micah 6:7-8)
- Jesus is looking for disciples, not virtuous people (Matt 11:28-29)

4. We find the good life when we SUBMIT.

When we submit to Gods ways- humility, forgiveness, mercy, love, truthfulness we will find his blessing: peace, joy, happiness, provision

The invitation is for us to come and know Him better