

GROWTH GROUPS

November 4, 2012

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Conversation Starter –

To be “poor in spirit” is to be desperate for the presence of God to be rightly established in your life. Recall and share a time when you were “desperate” for something. What emotions did you feel, where was your focus, what did you do?

Understanding -

The Sermon on the Mount and the beatitudes in particular serve to “image” what a true disciple of Jesus looks like. Salvation comes through the grace of God secured by Jesus through his sacrifice on the cross, not by our own working to earn salvation. That being said, someone who has received the gift of salvation and who has been filled by his Spirit will begin to look like Jesus more and more. These passages help us to understand what that image looks like and thus be assured that we are indeed his true followers as we see it reflecting more and more from our life.

1. Read Isaiah 66:1-2 and Psalm 104 and talk about how God is described. What do you find noteworthy about God’s character? Who we are in relationship to God. What does it look like to “tremble at God’s word?”
2. Philippians 2:5-11 portrays Jesus as the one who is perfectly “poor in spirit.” What does this look like in Jesus’ life? If we are Jesus’ followers what does it look like in our life?
3. In contrast to Matthew 5:3, Luke 6:20 says, “*Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.*” How might material wealth and power prevent someone from becoming genuinely “poor in spirit.”

Application: No one can will themselves to desperately desire God. This is an act of the Holy Spirit that we can cooperate with or fight. Pray that the Holy Spirit develops this desperation within you!

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