



**Sunday, October 3, 2010: Riches in Poverty**

**Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12**

**Speaker: Scott Masson**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Happiness is the great longing of mankind. No one seeks to be miserable. However, some people pursue misery to gain sympathy and control over others.
2. Such a repetitive pattern of self-destructive behaviour is called an addiction.
3. Sin is not merely immoral actions.
4. Jesus makes it clear that acting morally and believing ourselves thereby justified before God is also sinful. The moral Pharisee thinks he has no need of Jesus' atonement.
5. Whatever we worship, whether it be wealth, success, or reputation, that is what we will serve.
6. Sin is deceitful, offering us many ways to make us happy, but ultimately all but Christ's offer of blessed life leads to misery and death.
7. The Beatitudes apply to all Christians, not to a special category of 'saintly' people.
8. *All* the characteristics in the Beatitudes are intended to apply to *all* Christians *all* the time. They are not like gifts of the Spirit.
9. The fact that we all find ourselves falling short of the blessed life sheds the light of the gospel on the dark areas of our lives.
10. None of the beatitudes is a natural trait of human nature; only by God's grace do we exhibit these traits.
11. Natural personality differences are hard to explain. Many cultures attribute them to differing combinations of elemental properties; but only the Spirit's work can implant these supernatural traits in the believer.

12. The Beatitudes are to be taken as a whole, but their order is significant. Without poverty of spirit, we cannot enter the 'kingdom of Heaven.' We must first be emptied before we can be filled.
13. 'Justification by faith alone' is the theological way of expressing poverty of spirit.
14. Simeon said this child is destined for the fall and rising of many (Luke 2:34).
15. Christ Himself exemplified the humility of kingdom living. He was 'poor in spirit.'
16. The Bible nowhere exalts poverty as a spiritually superior state, though it warns us of the danger of wealth. Yet Abraham, the archetypal man of faith, was extremely wealthy.
17. "Poor in spirit" doesn't mean nervous, weak, shy or personality-deficient. Scripture holds up examples of very gifted people who were poor in spirit.
18. Jesus Himself is a perfect example of humility though He is God.
19. Let's not trust in our own achievements, or good deeds, families, education, etc. Let's come to the Lord because He loved us and poured out His life for us.

**Application Questions:**

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?
2. How did the following Biblical characters demonstrate poverty of spirit? Moses, Gideon, Isaiah, Peter, Paul.
3. Whom do the characteristics in the Beatitudes apply to?
4. Am I trusting in my own achievements, good deeds, family, education, etc.?
5. Do you aspire to be successful or wealthy? Are you doing something other than living for God alone?