

Remember what we learned last week about the Beatitudes: They describe for us the qualities or virtues of what OUGHT to come out of the heart and life of a child of the Kingdom of Christ. The Beatitudes reveal to us the spiritual character of the new man in Christ. ALL of these spiritual qualities should be in us as Christians! A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh. And I will give you an heart of flesh, and I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. Who you were in times past IS NOT who should be in Christ! If the Spirit of God is IN YOU, the fruit of the Spirit of God should come out of your attitudes, character, and life. Remember, BLESSED means HAPPY, but a typical worldly happiness; but a happiness of mind and heart because of what we possess in Christ. Happy because we are free from the dominion and power of sin in our lives. A real and consistent happiness! Matthew 5:3~Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

So Luke 6:20- Blessed are the poor: for yours is the Kingdom of God. Those who are children of the Kingdom of Christ are not arrogant or proud in their spirits and in their attitudes, but poor in spirit; meaning emptied of self-importance and self confidence both before God and before men! Humble and lowly in their personal attitudes and in their estimation of themselves. Not FULL of self, but EMPTY of self! The saddest commentary on this Beatitude comes out in our assertions of our own selves and our opinions toward others or in how we view things in the world! The poor in spirit don't need to be up front and they don't need to be heard; they simply want to be in the room where the Words of Christ are being spoken so they can hear from Him! This OUGHT to be you and I child of God. If you are a Christian, you will be happiest and most content when you realize that you have nothing and you are nothing apart from Christ.

Luke 15:14-21, 18:9-14, Proverbs 16:19, 29:23

Here as the spiritual challenge to us all, and it ought to be our OFTEN PRAYER; that we NOT only believe this truth, but we also strive to live it. THIS is who we need to be conformed to?

This is IN FACT, the spirit by which the Kingdom of God is received.

Mark 10:13-16

Matthew 5:4: ~Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Luke 6:21: ~Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

Luke 6:25: Woe unto you that laugh now! For ye shall mourn and weep. What is this mourning? What is this sorrow? First, it is NOT a worldly sorrow for worldly losses. It is NOT a sorrow because of discontentment or disappointment with our lot in life. This is a sorrow for our own sins before God, and the fact that we have offended Him and dishonored Him. Clarification: This is NOT sorrow and mourning because of the CONSEQUENCES of our sins, but because we are sinners, and we have sinned against God. We mourn for our sins because, in our sin, we resist the Spirit of God and grieve Him. When we sin, we mourn because we hinder our fellowship and communion with God. When we sin, we mourn because by our sins we show ingratitude and un-thankfulness toward God; and that, after all of His kindness that NEVER ceases toward us.

Luke 6:35, Jeremiah 13:15-17

But not only do we mourn for our sins, but also for the sins of others that we behold with our eyes, sins that we behold in the lives of those that we know and love. We mourn because of the sins of our society, and of our fellow man. Psalm 119:136, 158, 139:21-24

The Lord Jesus Christ was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

(Luke 19:41- 44)

This grief; this mourning for sin in our own lives, in those that we love, in our community and workplace; this grief and mourning brings us into the presence of our God, where we are comforted. We come to the throne of grace where we find grace to help in time of need.