“The King’s Blessed People: Poor in Spirit”

Matthew 5:1-12

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 7/24/22)

 Our King was born into humanity. He lived out the righteousness of God that we cannot.

He took on the wrath of God that we deserve. He healed. He taught. This Sermon on the Mount is the keystone of His teachings, describing what His kingdom looks like. Jesus is describing the nature of those who belong to Him. He is describing the life He calls His people to. The Beatitudes describe the abundant well-being that belongs only to the King’s people, the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. If you know the King, you know this happiness.

 Jesus is the Shepherd King: He knows the heart of each of His sheep perfectly. He has come to reveal His own heart, the heart of God. He has come to liberate and lead His people in the ways of His Kingdom. We are all captive to our sin nature. We need to be set free from sin’s power in our lives. Are you being set free? Deliverance has come to God’s people, and His name is Jesus. (Q1)

 Take a look at Matt. 7:13-14 for a moment. It contains both an invitation and a warning. How narrow is this gate? As narrow as the cross of Jesus. How do you enter? By receiving His grace by faith in the work of Christ alone. YOU DON’T NEED TO SCORE POINTS WITH GOD! The only way into His Kingdom is to know the King. (Q2)

 Now look at Matt. 7:22-23. The King demands loyalty and love, not good works. This loyalty and love flow from **gratitude** to the King. The grace of God in Christ that forgives His people also enables His people to live the Kingdom way. Mankind’s quest for happiness never delivers in the long run. It’s a dead end. Jesus sees your dissatisfaction and He offers wellness of soul (Ps. 144:15). To put it another way, true happiness is found only in relationship with the one true God. This starts with true humility, being “poor in spirit.” Someone who is “poor is spirit” repents of his transgressions against God and trusts in the Savior He has provided. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “…conviction must always proceed conversion…” (Q3) We are alienated from God by our sin nature. But the Spirit enables us to have faith in God. So humble yourself under His gracious rule!

 God’s response to the “poor in spirit” is also in verse 3: “for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” That’s right now! That’s present tense! This is wellness of soul, not circumstantial happiness. The King’s blessed people enjoy wellness of soul that comes only from knowing the King and belonging to His Kingdom. And the result? Peace with God! You get a clean slate because of the gracious work of our King. Everything in your life will work out for your good and His glory (Rom. 8:28). Father, let the words of your Son transform us. Amen. (Q4)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Compare Matt. 5:3 with Deut. 33:29. How are they the same? How are they different?
2. What does it mean to “know” the King?
3. What does this mean? Why is it so?
4. In your own words, what is the means of entry into God’s Kingdom?

“Blessed Assurance” (Fanny Crosby)

 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

 Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

 Refrain:

 This is my story, this is my song,

 Praising my Savior all the day long;

 This is my story, this is my song,

 Praising my Savior all the day long.

 Perfect submission, perfect delight,

 Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

 Angels, descending, bring from above

 Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

 Perfect submission, all is at rest,

 I in my Savior am happy and blest,

 Watching and waiting, looking above,

 Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.