

From the Pastor

The first Beatitude reads, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3).

That is a powerful statement. God's kingdom is for those who are poor of spirit. Obviously it is important for us to understand what "poor in spirit" means.

The Greek word translated "poor" is "ptochos – pto-khos'." Danker's Lexicon gives the primary definition of ptochos as "pertaining to being economically disadvantaged." The Online Bible Lexicon describes ptochos as "one who only obtains his living by begging." Ptochos is the word used to describe Lazarus in Luke 16:20: "But there was a certain beggar [Greek – ptochos] named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate..."

Please understand this is a true beggar—one who because of physical condition cannot work to provide for his needs. He is truly destitute. He would work if he could, but can't. He is reduced to begging to survive. In other words, he is not a scam artist. But, he is someone who recognizes his inability, limitations and condition. This is opposed to the rich who trusts in himself and his riches. Mark 10:24 "And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, 'Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!'" The beggar must trust in others for his sustenance.

Now being "poor in spirit" describes a state of mind. It refers to someone who truly recognizes his spiritual need. It shows that the individual understands that he cannot achieve what God is offering (the kingdom of God) by his own efforts. He or she must trust in God. This describes the mind of Jesus Christ as Paul described His approach in 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich [He was on the God-plane level of life], yet for your sakes He became poor [Greek – ptochos], that you through His poverty might become rich."

This is what Paul described in Philippians 2:5-8 (RSV), "Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant [Greek – slave], being born in likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross."

Jesus did not look to Himself. He always looked to His Father. Jesus epitomized what Isaiah said of God's approach in Isaiah 66:2 "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at My word."

Jesus' attitude is described in John 4:34, "Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

To be "poor in spirit" we need to have the same mind. We must learn not to do what is right in our own eyes or trust in ourselves, but, to be committed to doing the will of our Father and trust in Him who called us.

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



August 5, 2017

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermon/Bible Study: DVD

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro

Sermon: DVD

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
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Sunset Today in:	8:17pm	8:16pm	8:15pm
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Sunset Friday 8-11	8:12pm	8:11pm	8:11pm
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Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 8/5	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Victoria, Harlingen, and San Antonio.
Sabbath 8/12	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Jack Hendren will be in San Antonio. Mr. Jim Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly scheduled potluck will be August 5.

