



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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No.25

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

The Lord began His great sermon, known as the Sermon on the Mount with these words, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3) With these words Jesus began one of the greatest orations in the history of mankind. There have been many great speeches or sermons given by men, both inspired or non-inspired, that have shaped the course of human history. Great speeches such as the one given at the Gettysburg battlefield in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, or the wartime speeches of Winston Churchill, have inspired men to accomplish great and noble deeds – yet even these great speeches pale in comparison to this majestic and beautiful sermon preached by our Savior in Matthew 5:3 through Matthew 7:27.

In His sermon Jesus lays out the foundational principles of His glorious spiritual kingdom. He opens with the first great principle of importance in the life of a child of God – dependency upon God. For one to become a child of God they must begin with an honest and good heart (Luke 8:15). One with an honest and good heart recognizes that, of himself, he can do nothing, but must instead rely upon God. If one does not possess this innate knowledge of his own dependency on God, he will never fully submit to God, attempting instead to guide himself through life. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23) It is not possible to live the life God would have us to live without placing ourselves under His guidance – in humble submission to His Will.

The level of man’s dependency upon God is seen in the way the child of God is described as “poor in spirit.” The word “poor” carries the idea of being one who is destitute, or a beggar. Beggars were

a common sight in the first century, as there was no welfare system in place. One who was unable to support himself or his family because of some type of disability had no other option but to beg for his daily bread. He was totally dependant upon the benevolence of others. Likewise, one who would be a child of God also recognizes that he is totally dependant upon the benevolence or grace of God for his spiritual sustenance.

The one who would be a child of God understands that he is a spiritual beggar. It is in the knowledge of our own spiritual poverty and dependence upon God that we find the strength to live the Christian life. This is what Paul meant when he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13) In another passage he said, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10) When we rely upon God's strength rather than our own, we find that He gives us strength to overcome and endure the heartaches and woes of this earthly life.

Jesus says, "blessed", or eternally happy, will be those who recognize this dependence upon God for both salvation and guidance. In what way will the "poor in spirit" be blessed? They will be blessed because "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Those who submit themselves to God will be added to the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is that spiritual body composed of those who are saved. On earth, that kingdom is the church and when the end comes (i.e. the end of the world) Christ shall, deliver "up the kingdom to God." (1 Corinthians 15:24) Those who are in the kingdom, Christians, shall then be blessed to be in the presence of God throughout eternity.

Jack McNiel
Oak Grove Church of Christ
Oak Grove, Mo

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Jordan, Fredie Stewart,
Cindy Kidder, Garmelia Ellis,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Norma Cogdell
Margie Montgomery, Sue Harris,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Ken & Paula Wadley,
Clara Williams,
Charles & Ruby Malone

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris
Beverly Martindale,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Jeffrey Smith, Betty Turner,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Wayne Warren
Kenton Lancaster,
Marilyn Ferrell

Sunday Sermon's

AM - Poor In Spirit
Matthew 5:3

PM - God is My Rock
Psalm 18

Pantry Item

Canned Green Beans

Happenings

South Jackson

Today

Men's Business Meeting
Following AM Services

Singing Night

Cards to Send

Hazel Barker
8 Allen Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Ken & Paula Wadley
400 Harts Bridge Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	8
Bible Class	47/4
AM Worship	79/21
PM Worship	51/7
Wed Bible Study	47/6
Contribution	4441

“Blessed are the
POOR IN SPIRIT,
for theirs is the
**KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN”**

THE BEATITUDES



Those Privileged to Serve

June 19 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Van McConnell

Communion: Ray Pack

Contribution:

Freddie Callis

June 19 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - m. Wages, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Charlie Richardson

Opening Prayer:

Freeman Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Ken Ross

Contribution:

Luther Merritt

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Ray Pack

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion: Ken Ross

June 22 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devotional: Ray Pack

June 22 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devotional: Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Minister: Ray Pack

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(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM