



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

February 12th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:3

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

Any talk of a feeling or having negative thought about ourselves, these days is seemingly combatted with a tsunami of social media tropes about how to banish such negativity and build ourselves up. How might this be “wallpapering over the cracks”?

Commentator Andrew Wommack explains Matthew 5:3

‘The Greek word “PTOCHOS” was translated “poor” here, as well as thirty other times in the New Testament. In twenty-eight of those times, it is clearly referring to financially poor people. This verse, Luke 6:20, and Revelation 3:17 use the word metaphorically. When used this way, it is speaking of being inferior, inadequate, or lacking, such as when we speak of poor attendance or poor health. Jesus was telling those who recognized their spiritual inadequacies to be happy because help had come.’

The NCV translation sheds some further light “They are blessed who realize their spiritual poverty, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.”

If being poor in spirit is an acknowledgement of our true state before God, how might we prevent ourselves spiralling down into self-condemnation and a sense of worthlessness?

How might being poor in spirit in fact a positive and not a negative?

How in Mark 1:7, does John the baptiser (whom Jesus exemplifies as exceptional (Matt 11:11) display a person poor in spirit?

Can you be poor in spirit and have a healthy self-esteem? If so, how?

What might Jesus mean “theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”?

What two concurrent truths does In Paul hold in tension 1 Timothy 1:15 and how we gain comfort and assurance from this text?