

June 21, 2020

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Matthew’s record of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” begins with the statement “***Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven***” (Matt. 5:3). Like each of the “beatitudes,” this statement shows the stark contrast between those who seem blessed in the eyes of the world and those who are truly the most blessed according to God.

The word translated “poor” in **Matthew 5:3** can mean “*destitute of wealth, influence, position, honors; lowly, afflicted,*” or “*helpless, powerless to accomplish an end*” (see *Thayer & Strong-G4434*). When we consider these definitions, it helps us understand that the one who is poor in spirit recognizes his or her *hopelessness* without God.

Those who are truly blessed do not claim to be spiritually “independent” or “self-sufficient,” but claim the very opposite of this. To be poor in spirit means to realize we are *dependent on God*. Without God, our lives lack deep meaning and purpose, and we are doomed for eternal punishment.

The tax collector of **Luke 18:10-14** recognized this. Unlike the Pharisee who boasted about how great he was

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(Continued)

and treated God as though God were fortunate to have him, the tax collector **“would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to be me a sinner”** (verse 13). While the Pharisee thought he was high and mighty, the tax collector recognized that without God’s mercy, he would be nothing more than an utterly destitute slave of sin.

The Bible is full of examples of men who had a heart more like that of the Pharisee, and were proven foolish for such an attitude.

When Moses was sent by God to tell Pharaoh to release Israel from bondage, Pharaoh responded **“Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go”** (Exod. 5:2). Pharaoh thought he was powerful, and may have seemed so in the eyes of the people. He was proven a fool by God though when the ten plagues came upon Egypt.

Pharaoh’s pride led to his downfall, while the meekest man on earth led Israel out of bondage (cf. Num. 12:3).

Such “turning of the tables” is common in the Bible. God repeatedly humbles those who exalt themselves and exalts those who humble themselves.

Those who are faithful citizens in God’s kingdom are not the “self-sufficient” Pharaohs, but those who share the mindset exemplified by David when he said, **“Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poor and needy”** (Psalm 86:1).

None of us would have *anything* we need without God. Without His grace and our faithful obedience to Him, we have no hope beyond eternal condemnation in hell. Those too proud to acknowledge this will be brought low on the Day of Judgment.

The poor in spirit acknowledge their helplessness without God, and thus humbly surrender to His will.

The poor in spirit are far more blessed than the wealthiest, healthiest, most prestigious, most liked, most famous individuals on earth, for Jesus said of the poor in spirit, **“theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

Area Gospel Meetings

First City Church of Christ (Vincennes):
July 20-24 (with various speakers)
M-F: 7:00 (Eastern time)

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God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"For bodily exercise has some value, but godliness has value in all things, having the promise of the life which is now, and of that which is to come."
– 1 Timothy 4:8

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

June 21 – 1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 13:23-35
June 22 – 2 Samuel 1-2; Luke 14:1-24
June 23 – 2 Samuel 3-5; Luke 14:25-35
June 24 – 2 Samuel 6-8; Luke 15:1-10
June 25 – 2 Samuel 9-11; Luke 15:11-32
June 26 – 2 Samuel 12-13; Luke 16
June 27 – 2 Samuel 14-15; Luke 17:1-19

"The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." – Psalm 19:9b-10

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Bible Study:

Worship: Jeff

Evening:

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Douglas

Assignments

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Reading:

Announcements:

Table:

Serve:

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Invitation:

Clean Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday morning Bible classes and Sunday afternoon services are temporarily cancelled*

**Wednesday evening Bible study will be in the book of Zechariah*

**Our summer Gospel meeting is scheduled for August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

Anniversaries

June 23 – Mason & Stephanie

July 11 – Ethan & Lindsay

July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

Birthdays

July 8 – Mark

July 12 – Holly

July 12 – Jessilyn