

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	When Bankruptcy Becomes a Blessing
SERMON REFERENCE:	Matthew 5:1-9
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1654

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Beatitudes, found in the Sermon on the Mount, are sometimes referred to as “the attitudes that ought to be.”
 - i) They are really a blueprint for happiness.
 - ii) They are foundation stones for building your home and life.
 - iii) They are the keys to the Kingdom.
- b) Matthew 5:1-9
- c) For those who know the Lord Jesus Christ, there is happiness and joy.
 - i) This is what the word “blessedness” means.
 - (1) Blessedness could be described as being full of joy.
 - (2) It also means “to be congratulated.”
 - “In the Greek, it means “to be self-contained,” or to have what you need within you.
- d) The Beatitudes are a blueprint for blessedness and laws for living.
- e) In all of the Beatitudes, the Lord Jesus talks about what we are, not primarily what we have.
 - i) We live in a world today that puts the emphasis primarily upon what we have.
 - (1) For example, we think blessed are they that have wealth, that have strength, that have power, that have knowledge, that have prestige, etc.
 - (a) These are the things that many people think bring happiness.
 - (b) But many people have these things and don’t have joy or blessedness.
- f) In the Beatitudes, Jesus describes character qualities.
 - i) The very first character quality, or key to the Kingdom, is poorness of Spirit.
 - (1) Matthew 5:3
 - (a) The Lord Jesus is saying, “Blessed are the beggars.”
 - (b) There are several words used in the Bible for being poor.
 - (i) One word speaks of poverty.
 - 1. Luke 21:2
 - (ii) The word found in Matthew 5:3 does not speak of this type of poverty, as in the widow’s mite; it’s a different word that means a beggar that has absolutely nothing.
 - 1. It’s a word that is used in Luke 16 to describe the story of the beggar named Lazarus.
 - a. He was absolutely, totally, and completely destitute.
 - (c) The word for “poor” in Matthew 5:3 describes a person who is absolutely, totally, devastatingly impoverished.
- g) Today’s message will take a look at three specific things about these blessed beggars.

2) THE SPIRITUAL BEGGAR AND HIS BANKRUPTCY (MATTHEW 5:3)

- a) Jesus is not talking about financial poverty in this passage.
 - i) Jesus never said that it's a blessing to be financially poor.
 - (1) The Bible teaches that we ought to have compassion for the poor, help the poor and give to the poor.
 - (2) Many times, poor people are rich in faith, but the Bible does not teach that poverty is a blessing.
 - ii) If the Lord Jesus were talking about the blessedness of financial bankruptcy, then it would be our responsibility to divest ourselves of any wealth and to help everyone else to do the same thing.
 - (1) But this is not what the Lord Jesus was teaching.
 - b) Jesus is not talking in this passage about a person being poor spirited.
 - i) He is not talking about some outward expression of going around with a long face.
 - (1) Matthew 6:16-17
 - c) What does Jesus mean when He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit?"
 - i) Our human nature is made up of body, soul and spirit.
 - (1) With your body, you have physical life.
 - (a) You know the world beneath you.
 - (2) With your soul, you have psychological life.
 - (a) You know the world around you.
 - (3) With your spirit, you have spiritual life.
 - (a) You know the world above you.
 - ii) John 4:24
 - iii) Before a person can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, he must first admit that in his spirit he is totally bankrupt and a beggar before God.
 - (1) Not just that he is spiritually poor, but that he is spiritually a beggar and is bankrupt.
 - (2) We do not strut into the presence of Jesus.
 - (a) The very word for "poor" comes from a root word which means "to cringe," "to cower," and "to shrink back."
 - (3) This is why this character quality is listed first.
 - iv) If we say that we have faults and are not perfect, but yet there are some pretty good things about us, then we are not yet bankrupt.
 - (1) Isaiah 64:6
 - (2) Matthew 5:20
 - (a) The Pharisees were better outwardly than any of us today.
- 3) THE SPIRITUAL BEGGAR AND HIS BROKENNESS
- a) Brokenness follows bankruptcy.
 - b) What is the broken behavior that follows bankruptcy?
 - i) We must discover and admit just who we are.
 - (1) For most people, their greatest need is to see their need.
 - (a) Most people are egomaniacs strutting their way to Hell thinking they are too good to be damned.

- (2) This discovery comes when we see just who God is, and then we understand who we are.
 - (a) Simon Peter was a naturally aggressive man who always gave his opinion.
 - (i) One day, he had a glimpse of the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ.
 - (ii) Luke 5:8
 - 1. Simon Peter finally saw his bankruptcy.
 - (b) Isaiah the prophet thundered woes against this sin, that country and this people in Isaiah 5.
 - (i) But in Isaiah 6, he saw the Lord and said, “Woe is me.”
 - 1. Isaiah 6:1
 - 2. Isaiah 6:5
 - (c) Matthew 15:22-28
 - (i) In order to bring her to a point of brokenness, the Lord Jesus said something to this Phoenician woman that we might think cruel.
 - (ii) The word for “dog” that Jesus used here means a household pet.
 - (iii) The word for “dog” that the woman used in response means a scroungy, back-alley, mangy dog.
 - (iv) Like Simon Peter and Isaiah, this woman became a beggar in the sight of a righteous and holy God; and these beggars got exactly what they wanted.
 - (d) If there were ever a man who had difficulty seeing himself as bankrupt, it was the Apostle Paul.
 - (i) Paul had the right birth.
 - 1. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews.
 - (ii) He ran in the right society.
 - 1. He was a Pharisee.
 - (iii) He was also a Roman citizen.
 - (iv) He had the best education money could buy.
 - (v) He kept the Jewish laws with an exactitude that was amazing.
 - (vi) One day, he caught a glimpse of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Philippians 3:8
- ii) When we discover our bankruptcy, we then get a different dependency.
 - (1) We stop depending upon the things we used to depend upon.
 - (a) We don’t depend upon our natural birth or pedigree or what our parents may have been.
 - (i) God has children but no grandchildren.
 - (ii) We must be born again.
 - (b) Don’t depend upon your position in life.
 - (i) Don’t depend upon prestige, money or wealth when you die.
 - (c) Don’t depend upon education and knowledge when you die.

- (2) When we see that we are bankrupt in the sight of God, then we cease to depend upon all of those other things that cannot help us.
 - (a) Matthew 5:20
 - (i) Matthew 5:48 explains how much our righteousness should exceed that of the Pharisees.
 - 1. This is the standard God demands.
 - 2. This standard can only be met through the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ as the righteousness of God is imputed to us.
 - a. We will never know this righteousness until we first of all understand what we are in the sight of a righteous and holy God.
 - (b) We need to stop measuring ourselves by some false standard.
 - (i) We typically like to measure ourselves against somebody else we think we're better than; generally, it's a hypocrite in the church.
 - 1. One of the twelve apostles was a hypocrite.
 - (ii) We should instead measure ourselves by the standard of Almighty God.
 - iii) There is the declaration that follows it.
 - (1) We lay our pride in the dust.
 - (a) Beggars have lost their sense of shame.
- 4) THE SPIRITUAL BEGGAR AND HIS BLESSEDNESS (MATTHEW 5:3)
 - a) Why is being poor in spirit such a blessing?
 - i) It's the only way you'll get to Heaven.
 - (1) Isaiah 57:15
 - (2) All sin is rooted in pride.
 - (a) Until that pride is dealt with, people are not ready or willing to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
 - b) The reason this Beatitude is listed first is because it's the foundation for all the other blessings that follow.
 - i) Without this key, all the other keys won't make any difference at all.
 - ii) Matthew 18:3-4
 - (1) Until we lay our pride in the dust, we cannot be saved.
 - (a) God cannot fill that which is already full.
 - iii) We will never live spiritually until we admit that we are dead spiritually.
 - (1) John 9:41
- 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar how to find bread.
 - i) Have you found the Bread of Life?
 - ii) Do you know Jesus Christ as Lord?

- b) If you have never received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you can do so today.
 - i) Pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16