

# Jesus Teaches -This is For You

Series on Talking & Walking – Prayer & Holiness

- communicating with God
- importance of Holiness in our lives
- practical perspectives on Holiness

Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-8

- attracted by the evidence, power & authority
- wanting in on the secret – tell us about it
- radical truths – counter cultural, not a new list of rules, things you attain – describing life in God's economy

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Matthew 5:1-3 – *“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”*

## 1. Poor In Spirit

- literally – spiritually destitute.
- blessed are the spiritual zeros, those bankrupt, deprived and deficient – spiritual beggars without a wisp of religion or hope of their own.

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- to those who realize they have no basis to claim worthiness before God
  - struggle with thoughts
  - fail often to do what they know is right
  - embarrassed by what they have done
  - feel disqualified by past – by decisions, results
- this Kingdom is for you!
- common interpretation – spiritual humility, humble
- state you can obtain to be in a position to be blessed

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- Mk 2:17 – *“On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

Jesus is proposing to replace:

self reliance with childlike God reliance

self confidence with submissive God confidence

self determination with sovereign grace

self esteem with mercy for the unworthy received

Radical departure from the rules that qualify us, teaching from the religious leaders of the day!

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## Examples from Scripture

Abraham – *“Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes”*

Jacob – *“I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two groups.”*

David – *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”*

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”*

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Solomon - *"Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties."*

Isaiah - *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

John the Baptist – *"He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."*

Tax Collector - *"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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Paul – *“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.”*

- Amazing truth – this Kingdom of God is for You!
  - Jesus & Woman at the Well
  - Jesus being anointed by perfume
  - Jesus speaking to religious leaders
- Wototo Kids & Childlike faith – for these.....

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## 2. Mourning & Comfort

- realize we were not created for death
- rail at the injustice and loss when it is experienced
- Heb. 9:27 *“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment”*
- all look for answers, solutions, ways of dealing with it
- sense of loss, helplessness, sadness, anger .....

Jesus is Proclaiming:

- there can be comfort for you!



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- 2 Cor. 1:3-7 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. “*

- I understand your situation & pain
- I am taking action – now and forever
- There is relief for you at the deepest level

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## So What

1. God loves you, and desires relationship with you, available through Jesus and His work on the cross.
  - you don't earn it, deserve it, you come destitute & receive
2. Others around us are spiritually destitute & need to hear
  - God took action for them, they are not disqualified by their unworthiness or past. They need to hear and experience this great news – it is for them!
  - are you loving them like Jesus, and as one rescued to another who is lost pointing to where they can find help?

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## 3. When Mourning is Part of Your Experience

- God understands, and takes great care to address this pain
- comfort and healing can be found in God, restoring your broken heart to health
- lead others to God's care in mourning – for no human words or wisdom can change this pain!