WEEK #1: Happy Are the Beggars

> *When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to teach them, saying:*
>
> **The Beatitudes**
> *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
> *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
> *Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.*
> *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*
> *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
> *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*
> *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*
> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,*
> *for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*
> *You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*
>
> Matthew 5:1-12 (CSB)

Happy are the _____

for theirs is the kingdom of _____.

When we are poor in spirit: we _____ **do it on our** _____.

> *...He said to me, "My grace is enough to cover and sustain you. My power is made perfect in weakness." ...*
>
> 2 Corinthians 12:9 (VOICE)

> *For it's by God's grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort. It is God's gift, pure and simple. You didn't earn it, not one of us did, so don't go around bragging that you must have done something amazing.*
>
> Ephesians 2:8-9 (VOICE)

When we are poor in spirit: we _____**we can't do it on our own, and we need** _____.

> *...we realized that we could no longer rely on ourselves and that we must trust solely in God, who possesses the power to raise the dead.*
>
> 2 Corinthians 1:9 (VOICE)

> *You may think that the situation is hopeless, but God gives us more grace when we turn away from our own interests. That's why Scripture says,*
>
> *God opposes the proud, but He pours out grace on the humble.*
>
> *So submit yourselves to the one true God and fight against the devil and his schemes. If you do, he will run away in failure. Come close to the one true God, and He will draw close to you. Wash your hands; you have dirtied them in sin. Cleanse your heart, because your mind is split down the middle, your love for God on one side and selfish pursuits on the other.*
>
> James 4:6-8 (VOICE)

When we are poor in spirit: we receive a _____

_____.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think today's culture would describe the "good life"? What sort of earthly things does our culture value as it pertains to success or happiness?
2. Why is it sometimes so hard to admit that we can't do something on our own?
3. How would you, your family, your friend groups, and your community be transformed if everyone came to God admitting that they needed His power, not their own?
4. What do you want to release and hand over to God today?

Recommended Resources

- *The Good Life: What Jesus Teaches about Finding True Happiness*, by Dr. Derwin L. Gray
- *The Fight to Flourish*, by Jennie Lusko
- *Sermon on the Mount (The Story of God Bible Commentary)*, by Scot McKnight
- *Beatitudes Series: Enjoying Everyday Life Podcast*, by Joyce Meyer
- *Understanding the Sermon on the Mount (Messages of Christ)*, YouTube

CSB (Christian Standard Bible) VOICE (The Voice Translation)