



Series: Unexpected Messiah

Passage Mathew 5:1-3

Title: Unexpected Blessing

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 4/26/2020

Discussion Starter –Summarize Jesus’ public ministry to this point. Why is it significant that Jesus (God in the flesh) spoke to humanity in person? When was the last time God walked with humanity? What happened to cause humanity to be separated from God? How was eating of the “tree of knowledge of good and evil” related to having a prideful spirit?

We are spiritually ruined without Jesus

- Read Romans 3:11-18. What does Paul say about humanity’s moral condition? Does this mean that people are naturally corrupt? Does this apply to you? Are you a “good” person generally? How would you justify this claim?
- How do you reconcile Paul’s claim and your own self-image? By what standard should we measure our “goodness”? (See Peter’s response to Jesus in Luke 5:8). What was Isaiah’s reaction to being in God’s presence (Isaiah 6:5)? How is this related to being “Poor in spirit”?
- How does an understanding of our corrupt nature lead to becoming poor in spirit? Will this intellectual recognition alone lead to the blessing of a “poor spirit”? If not, what else is needed? How does being poor in spirit relate to our sanctification process?
- Read Luke 18:9-14. Contrast the approach to righteousness before God by the Pharisee and the tax collector? How does the Pharisee approach God? How does the tax collector approach God? Which one received the blessing? Why do you think this teaching is important to us as Christians today?
- In this parable (Pharisee and the tax collector), explain the meaning of the unexpected blessing that is revealed in verse 14. See also Isaiah 66:2.

Does Jesus claim you as a dependent? (Unexpected Blessing)

- Do you easily accept being dependent on God? How is this related to being poor in spirit?
- What part does Jesus’ love play in your life? How is hope and the blessing of being poor in spirit related?
- We must have a humble spirit to enter the Kingdom of God. Why is this true? In coming to your saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, what part did humility play in your salvation? (See Mark 2:16-17)
- Why is the beatitude of being poor in spirit foundational to the other beatitudes and the entire Sermon on the Mount?