

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) ³ "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mathew records these words as the first sermon in his gospel.
Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Jesus must have known how difficult it is to be poor in spirit.

What is to be poor in spirit, poverty of the spirit?

I think it is more of me-decreasing-and -God -increasing.

Most of us will not have a problem in this.

But the next level is quite difficult, that is to think of others better than us. Let's go to Philippians chapter 2

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) ³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself.**

This is difficult to esteem others better than himself. The level of difficulty is directly proportional to our seniority, experience, age etc.

When we were young we could think of the other person much better than us. We used to wonder at this preacher, teacher, friend.. but as we get older this wonder is slowly replaced by I am-better- than -the -other and later leads to jealousy.

Only when we are able to humble ourselves and truly say the above, can we become poor in spirit. That is why I love those Russian writers(Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky) who created such characters with utter poverty of the spirit.

So how is it possible for us in this crazy I am-wonderful world. Look around the ads, media everything exalts the individual more than what s/he is worth.

But Jesus says the poor in spirit inherits the Kingdom of Heaven. Should we try to become poor in spirit or think that we are beyond that?

How to become poor in spirit? Jesus never preached a single word that He Himself did not live.

Though He knew He was the maker of all things, He chose to be crucified with all the insults, abuses, injuries heaped over Him. Jesus held His peace. He poured out His Spirit unto death. That was the utter poverty of the Spirit.

Read the following scripture portion carefully, slowly...

Philippians 2:5-11 (NKJV) ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, (this means, He did not claim His divine rights!)

⁷but made Himself of no reputation,

taking the form of a bondservant,

and coming in the likeness of men.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,

He humbled Himself and

became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

There is nothing more for me to explain. We have to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

The way to inherit the Kingdom, meanders through thorny bushes that deflate our egos again and again.

How easily we are offended when someone doesn't wish us or speak to us first? God will take us through these thorny fields which will keep puncturing our bloated egos. But we have to ask God to do this work in us, just like Jesus totally surrendered Himself in obedience even till the point of death, even to the death on the Cross.

I know personally that emptying our self, our ego, our spirit will be very humbling and painful, yet there is a glorious climax.

But let us decide to follow Jesus...

1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV) ²¹For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for £us, leaving £us an example, **that you should follow His steps**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCBOZVLfCco>. This is a very meaningful song by Rich Mullins. His life was a close following of Jesus' steps. He shunned company and walked the Jesus walk. Spent his time teaching the underprivileged children music free of cost. He was a rare worship leader dead so much before time.

Tragedy for us, not for Him. Must be singing n singin. Read his biography...*An Arrow Pointing to Heaven*.