**The blessed character of the poor in spirit – Matt. 5:3**

**Focal Truth: Only the poor in spirit go to heaven**

Being poor in spirit is the essential characteristic of the Christian.

**Observations**

1. **What it does not mean to be poor in spirit**
2. It is not poverty in financial terms
3. It is not poverty of sinful bondage of the lost
4. It is not poverty of renouncing worldly riches
5. **What it does mean to be poor in spirit**
6. The poor in spirit are destitute of inward and outward comfort
7. The poor in spirit know they are a sinner & grieve for their sinfulness

**Luke 5:8** – when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus’ feet, saying, go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man

1. The poor in spirit understand that there is no goodness in them
2. The poor in spirit know that they are without any righteousness
3. The poor in spirit know that they wander away from God & disobey His Word
4. The poor in spirit see nothing in themselves that is good but cry for mercy to God

**Luke 18:13** – but the tax collector standing some distance away was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying God be merciful to me the sinner

1. The poor in spirit are humble – unwilling to raise his eyes to God
2. The poor in spirit are mournful over their sinfulness – beat his chest
3. The poor in spirit are beggars for God’s mercy – God be merciful to me the sinner

**Phil. 3:9** – that I may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith

 **Ps. 51:4** – against You, and You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight

 **The poor are always begging – the poor in spirit are always begging mercy from God**

 **God enriches the poor in spirit with His grace through the Holy Spirit**

1. **Why the poor in spirit go to heaven**
2. Poverty in spirit is the basis/foundation of all the other graces of the Christian described in the beatitudes

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never mourn

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never be gentle

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never hunger & thirst for righteousness

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never be merciful

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never be pure in heart

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never be a peacemaker

Unless you are poor in spirit you will never be persecuted for righteousness

1. The poor in spirit are those who are born again – John 3:5 – unless you are born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God
2. The poor in spirit are able to receive the grace of God

**Luke 4:18** – the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed

1. God justifies the poor in spirit – **Lk. 16:14** - this man went down to his house justified

for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted