

Evidences and Gifts of God's Favor

2/6/11

Matthew 5:1 And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

² And opening His mouth He *began* to teach them, saying,

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

¹² "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ "Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

An Evidence of God's Favor: Poverty of Spirit

Matthew 5:1 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Poverty of spirit is a work of God which produces:

1. A realization of my need

Luke 18:9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer.

¹¹ "The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer.'

¹² 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

¹³ "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

¹⁴ "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

¹⁵ And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He might touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they *began* rebuking them.

¹⁶ But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

¹⁷ "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all."

2. God's esteem

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

2 Corinthians 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

⁸ Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

3. Others' esteem

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,

A Gift of God's Favor: Citizenship in God's Kingdom

Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

¹³ For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

All Scripture is from the NASV