

The DOCTRINE OF SIN

Lesson 3 – Blessed Bankruptcy

Steve Lawson

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

When the Glory of God Moves _____ then Sin Moves _____. Jonathan Edwards had declared war on sin in his life.

The greatest depression of all time was the black day when Adam sinned in the garden against God. We now therefore have no _____ by which to commend ourselves before God. We are _____ and _____ before God because of sin.

If we would we would recover our lost inheritance and estate we must recognize and renounce our spiritual poverty. We must file spiritual bankruptcy in the court of heaven and plead for the spiritual riches in Christ.

The Priority of this beatitude:

This comes first because all of the beatitudes flow out of the first one. Apart from being poor in spirit no one enters the kingdom of heaven and no one grows and goes on in the things of the Lord apart from being continually poor in spirit.

The Priority
The Promise
The Paradox
The Picture
The Pronouncement

This is the most _____ virtue of the Christian Life! Jesus begins here because the gospel and _____ begins here.

Absolutely nothing of spiritual _____ will take place in your spiritual life until you come to grips with the fact that you are _____ in spirit.

The Promise of this beatitude:

This is not a message of _____ and _____.

Blessed is the promise of _____ favor and to be in a right standing before God. People are either blessed or cursed.

The secondary meaning involves our emotional _____. Gladness now and glory later.

The Paradox of this beatitude:

The point of the paradox is to highlight the contrast between the world system and the kingdom of Christ.

This speaks to how supernatural the kingdom of God is. That is why only one who is supernaturally born of God can see the Kingdom of God.

Discussion:

How would describe spiritual bankruptcy in postmodern American terms (i.e. what does it look like to you)?

Steve refers to the first Beatitude as the gate-keeper Beatitude. Do you agree with that statement or do you think it is an overstated idea?

What are the promises of this Beatitude? Are they an encouragement to you, or do you see them as valuable?

What, if anything, do you see as paradoxical about this Beatitude and does it help or hinder our understanding of it?

How can you use the concept of spiritual bankruptcy in sharing our faith and the gospel? Do you see it as an advantage or disadvantage?
