

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great in Power, Blessed be Your Name, Indescribable, Your Great Name, Crown Him

WELCOME

Orig vs. Fake. Have you ever had an item thinking it was original but later on discovered to be fake?

WORD

MATTHEW 5:3

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

IN SEARCH FOR LEGIT HAPPINESS

What people long for the most in life is legit happiness and love. Sadly, many search for it in the wrong places with nice-looking substitutes that only cause shame and pain. Many today reach a point where they would rather end their life to escape from the pain of the unfulfilled longing for legit happiness.

We all want to be legit happy, really legitimately happy. The good news is God wants us to be legit happy and He shows us the right way to get there. When we imbibe the truth that Jesus imparts to us and put it into practice, it will set us free (**John 8:31–32**) and it will turn our perspective about happiness upside down. Let us learn how to have legit happiness from Jesus in His sermon at the Mount (**Matthew 5**).

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
– **Matthew 5:3**

Blessed comes from the Greek word “*makarios*” which means divine joy, a perfect happiness, an inner satisfaction independent of outward circumstances; it is an assurance of God’s gracious approval and favor. If we want to be legit happy, we must be totally dependent on God. Hopefully, we would come into the realization that there is no better place to be in but to be totally dependent on God alone.

Poor in spirit comes from the word “*ptochos*”, a picture of total dependence, of cringing and cowering like a beggar. It means realizing that we are in absolute spiritual poverty apart from God. It is not confined to one’s financial status though. A person can be financially poor but proud in spirit, and one can be rich but poor in spirit because he has a deeply

humble attitude of peaceful dependence on God (**John 15:5**).

Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. This does not mean that we will experience legit blessing only in heaven. But of course, in heaven is the ultimate fulfillment of legit happiness where we will receive the blessing of dwelling in the very **presence** of God; this is the blessing of the **peace** of God that wipes away all tears and the blessing of the **power** of God that makes all things new (**Revelation 21:3–5**).

BE TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON GOD

To be poor in spirit is to be totally dependent on God. Let us learn from some stories in the Bible about being poor in spirit and, by way of contrast, being proud in spirit.

Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:31–37). He was a very brutal and ambitious king of Babylon. He was so proud of himself and his accomplishments that God judged him and took away from him his power and position, and even his own sanity. But God, in His mercy, restored Nebuchadnezzar. After seven years, he finally humbled himself before God, praising Him as the King of heaven for all His works. This story is a clear manifestation of the transforming power of God that can humble those who walk in pride.

Keep in mind that one can be wealthy, successful, and influential yet remain poor in spirit. That person is not attached to the titles attached to his name to his wealth. Instead, he can be seen humbly working in the background giving God the honor in everything.

A Pharisee and a Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14). While the Pharisees were noted for their self-righteousness, tax collectors were looked down as traitors by their fellowmen not only because they were known to have

WORD (cont'd)

sold themselves out to the Roman government to collect taxes but also because they often add whatever amount they desired over the tax dues of the citizens. In the parable, however, the difference between the two became black and white. The Pharisee was so proud in spirit while the tax collector was poor in spirit having realized how impoverished he was apart from God.

The Pharisee and the Sinful Woman with Alabaster of Perfume (Luke 7:36-38, 44-47). A Pharisee invited Jesus to his house but failed to give Him the basic courtesy deserved by a guest. A woman, who was a prostitute, came when she learned about Jesus. She went to Him weeping and wiping his feet with her tears, and anointing Him with expensive perfume from her

alabaster jar. But the Pharisee criticized Jesus and looked down on the woman. This story tells us that proud people will often talk of themselves because of their pride and because they are critical of others. Being poor in spirit is, however, not a momentary reaction but a consistent total dependence in God.

Do you want to be legit happy? Continue in His word, and you will know the truth of what legit happiness is and the truth will set you free. Jesus said Himself, "I am the Truth" (**John 14:6**). We can experience Truth because it is the very Person of Jesus. Knowing Jesus is our legit happiness. If we keep looking for legit happiness elsewhere, we will not find it. If we truly want to be legit happy, there is no other way but Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Blessed.** What is the blessing of being poor in spirit according to **Matthew 5:3**? What is to be poor in spirit?
2. **Rich vs. Poor.** Have you experienced being rich and poor at the same time? In what aspects? Briefly share.
3. **Total Dependence.** What is God prompting you to surrender to Him right now? How will you respond?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Being poor in spirit is not a momentary reaction to a problem but a consistent total dependence in God in the following areas. Use this opportunity to share your story with an unbeliever. The guide below can help.

Provision (Matthew 6: 31-33). *God provides. We do our part but at the end of the day, our attitude is to acknowledge that all is from God.*

Strength (Psalm 73:36). *We need God for our physical and inner strength. We are dependent on Him for every beat of our heart. He has already determined how many beats we have until the last one.*

Wisdom (James 1:5). *When we feel inadequate ask God for wisdom.*

Hope (Psalm 42:5). *Our God is a God of hope and the impossible is His specialty, so depend on Him.*

Vindication (Psalm 37:5-6). *Are you being falsely accused, treated unfairly, persecuted? Totally depend on God, vindication comes only from Him.*

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends