

Radical Red Letters - Kingdom Living in a Chaotic Land

Sermon / September 17,20

- 👉 Introduce yourself again if you have any new people in your Group whether zoom or in person.
- 👉 Share one high you had from this past week.

Pastor Vance mentioned some words that may describe how people are feeling. Which of these words describe what you think people are feeling in our culture?

👉 *(Choose One) Out of control, sense of loss, emotionally bulldozed, uncertainty, helpless, exhausted, grief, anxious, depressed, fear*

👉 Pastor Vance described the desire to move from chaos to blessed, where we find satisfaction completely in God. What would it mean to you to experience this kind of blessing in your life?

👉 Read as a Group - **Matthew 5:1-12**

“1. When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. 2 He opened His mouth and *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 *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Beatitudes: Eight radical declarations of kingdom living resulting in contentment in the midst of the chaos

👉 The promises that Jesus is making are promises for us today. Which of the beatitudes are you needing today?

“The beatitudes are not simple statements; they are exclamations...that is most important, for it means that the beatitudes are not pious hopes of what shall be; they are not glowing, but vague prophecies of some future bliss; they are congratulations on what is. The blessedness which belongs to Christians is not a blessedness which is postponed to some future world of glory; it is a blessedness which exists here and now...the greatness of the beatitudes is that they are not wistful glimpses of some future beauty; they are not even golden promises of some distant glory; they are triumphant shouts of bliss for a permanent joy that nothing in the world can ever take away.”—William Barclay (The Gospel of Matthew, vol.1, Logos)

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

I. What does it mean to be “Poor in Spirit”?

Definition: To be poor in spirit is to recognize one’s own spiritual poverty apart from God’s amazing grace!

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”—Eph.2:1-5,8

👉 No matter where we are in our spiritual journey we are helpless without God’s amazing grace. How has God’s amazing grace changed your life?

1. Being “poor in spirit” is the way to enter the kingdom of God

👉 Read the verses and quotes below and share one thing you notice about any of the verses or quotes.

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”—John 3:1-3

“Our first birth gave us physical life; the new birth gives us spiritual life and membership in God’s family.”—Billy Graham

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”—Eph.2:8

2. Being “poor in spirit” is the way to enjoy the fullness of the kingdom of God

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”—John 15:5

“There is no one in the kingdom of God who is not ‘poor in spirit’. It is the fundamental characteristic of the Christian and of the citizen of the kingdom of heaven, and all the other characteristics are in a sense the result of this one.”—Martin Lloyd-Jones (Studies in the Sermon on the Mount, p.42)

II. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN MY LIFE PRACTICALLY TO LIVE “POOR IN SPIRIT”?

A. My life should revolve around the King and His kingdom

“I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”—Philippians 4:12-13

B. I should see other’s lives primarily through the filter of the King and His kingdom

👉 Where do you need to ask God to change your heart regarding being ‘poor in spirit’?

👉 Share prayer requests