



How to Gain The Right Perspective

Matthew 5:1-3 NKJV: And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

We’re beginning a new series called, “The Good Life.” In the first major sermon that Jesus preached, He began with the Beatitudes, which reveal how to experience the blessings of the Kingdom of Heaven. These beatitudes will help us experience the Presence, the Power, the Promises, the Provision, and the Peace of Jesus Christ as we become part of His Kingdom and under His Dominion. Many Christians are not even aware of all the wonderful blessings that are readily available to us within His Kingdom. Not only does Jesus offer us Eternal Life, but He also offers us “The Good Life” right here on the earth. This week our focus is on the first beatitude and why it’s important for us to be humble.

1A) What instructions did Paul give in Ephesians 5:18?

1B) What is necessary for something or someone to be filled?

1C) PERSONAL: Explain why you think it is difficult for a person who is filled with pride to be filled with the Spirit.

2A) PERSONAL: We all know people who are filled with pride. Describe ways they act and treat others.

2B) What do the following verses tell us about pride or being prideful?

Proverbs 16:18:

Proverbs 29:23:

Isaiah 2:11:

2C) PERSONAL: Why do you think it’s important to be humble?

Read Isaiah 6:1-8:

3A) Describe the time and what Isaiah saw when he “looked up.” Verses 1-4

3B) How did Isaiah respond to what he saw? Verse 5

3C) Briefly read Isaiah 1:4, Isaiah 5:18-22. What change in attitude did Isaiah experience? Verses 5-8

Read Luke 18:9-14:

4A) Describe the different attitudes of pride and humility found in this parable.

4B) According to verse 14, what results did Jesus say would come as a result?

5A) PERSONAL: Explain why you think it makes a difference to “look in” rather than “look at others.”

5B) PERSONAL: Which do you honestly believe that you do? If you usually look at others and compare, what changes do you think you need to make? If you usually look in, how has that helped you?

Read Matthew 6:1-4:

6) How does this passage reveal the differences between pride and humility?

7A) What can we learn about humility from the following verses?

Mark 9:35:

Philippians 2:3-4

1 Peter 5:6:

7B) PERSONAL: How does Micah 6:8 help you understand that God wants us to be humble?

ACT: In the beatitudes, Jesus described the blessings we can experience when we are “poor in spirit” or humble. He literally promised that we would enjoy the kingdom of heaven and all that it involves. Our challenge this week is to spend time looking up and realizing how majestic God is and worthy of our praise and devotion. Then we need to look in and honestly evaluate whether our attitude is motivated by pride or humility, and be certain that we are not comparing ourselves to others. We have nothing to be prideful about. Without God, we can do nothing! But with God - nothing is impossible! Let’s seek God and humble ourselves before Him.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that describe why we do not want to be filled with pride.

Monday:

Psalm 10:4 NKJV

The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

Tuesday:

Psalm 31:18 NIV

Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

Wednesday:

Proverbs 8:13 NIV

To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Thursday:

Isaiah 2:17-18 NIV

The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day, and the idols will totally disappear

Friday:

Zephaniah 2:10-11 NIV

This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the Lord Almighty. The Lord will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands.

Saturday:

James 1:9-10 NIV

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

Sunday:

1 John 2:16 NIV

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

