

BE A BRINGER

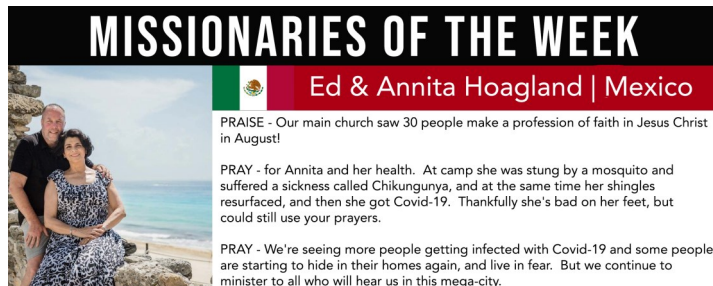
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK
Ed & Annita Hoagland | Mexico

PRAISE - Our main church saw 30 people make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ in August!

PRAY - for Annita and her health. At camp she was stung by a mosquito and suffered a sickness called Chikungunya, and at the same time her shingles resurfaced, and then she got Covid-19. Thankfully she's bad on her feet, but could still use your prayers.

PRAY - We're seeing more people getting infected with Covid-19 and some people are starting to hide in their homes again, and live in fear. But we continue to minister to all who will hear us in this mega-city.



Truly Happy
CAPITAL BAPTIST CHURCH
GROWTH GUIDE
Handout: 10/10/21
Study: 10/17/21

Happy Are The Humble

In the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). What exactly does it mean to be poor in spirit, and why does being poor in spirit result in the kingdom of heaven? Why is “poor in spirit” something God wants us to be? Why would God want us to be “poor” at anything?

Some propose that Jesus is speaking of financial poverty, that He is advocating being poor so that riches and possession don’t come between us and God. While it is true that Jesus elsewhere warned against seeking riches (Matthew 6:24), that does not seem to be Jesus’ point in Matthew 5:3. Jesus is speaking of being “poor in spirit”; i.e., being “spiritually poor.” In the beatitudes, Jesus is concerned with spiritual realities, not material possessions. What, then, does it mean to be spiritually poor?

To be poor in spirit is to recognize your utter spiritual bankruptcy before God. It is understanding that you have absolutely nothing of worth to offer God. Being poor in spirit is admitting that, because of your sin, you are completely destitute spiritually and can do nothing to deliver yourself from your dire situation. Jesus is saying that, no matter your status in life, you must recognize your spiritual poverty before you can come to God in faith to receive the salvation He offers.

Why and how does being poor in spirit result in the kingdom of heaven? While the phrase can be broad in meaning, “kingdom of heaven” essentially refers to salvation. The kingdom of heaven is both eternity in heaven with God after death (Romans 6:23) and the eternal quality of life with God before death (John 10:10). God offers us salvation as a gift, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, the full payment for sin’s penalty. Before we can receive this gift, we must understand that we cannot make ourselves worthy of it. Salvation is by grace through faith, not of works (Ephesians 2:8-9). We must recognize our sinfulness before we can understand our need for a Savior. We must admit our spiritual poverty before we can receive the spiritual riches God offers (Ephesians 1:3). We must, in short, be “poor in spirit.”

When Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” He is declaring that, before we can enter God’s kingdom, we must recognize the utter worthlessness of our own spiritual currency and the inability of our own works to save us.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

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

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 5:1-3; Proverbs 29:23; Isaiah 57:15

Introduction

1. What does Matthew 5:1-2 say about the context of this message and Jesus' listeners? What do these verses tell us about Jesus?
2. How does Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:3 compare to our ideas of happiness?

Tuesday: Matthew 5:3a; I Timothy 6:17-19

Poor In Spirit Does Not Mean Destitute

3. What do you think it means to be “poor in spirit”?
4. List some circumstances or insights that have helped you to realize that you were “poor in spirit”.

Wednesday: Psalm 51:17; Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 2:8-9

Poor In Spirit Means Humbling Yourself

5. What does it mean to be humble?
6. What is the relationship between humility and our ability to admit our sin?

Thursday: Matthew 5:3b; Matthew 18:3-4; Revelation 21:3-4

Being Poor In Spirit Leads To Heaven

7. In what senses do we miss God's kingdom if we do not acknowledge our spiritual poverty?
8. In what areas of your life is it easy to acknowledge your need for God?
9. In what areas of your life is it more difficult to acknowledge your neediness?

Friday: Hebrews 4:16; Proverbs 13:10a; Romans 12:3-6a

Being Poor In Spirit Produces Happiness

10. In your life, how have you been blessed by acknowledging your spiritual poverty?
11. Based upon today's scripture readings, how does being “poor in spirit” lead to a happier life?
12. How does being poor in spirit impact your relationship with the Lord? How does it impact our church?