

East Side Church

Life Notes

The Riches of Poverty

Pastor Kerry B. Robinson

Matthew 5:3

Poverty Confusion: There is a difference of opinion between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth regarding poverty.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. –Matthew 5:3 (ESV)

Biblical Observation: In Jesus' teaching, poverty is a statement of spiritual condition rather than physical need.

How fortunate are those who are aware of their spiritual need, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven! –Matthew 5:3 (The Four Gospels, Blackwelder)

Kingdom Concept #1: The kingdom of heaven can only be experienced by people who are aware of their spiritual need and seek a spiritual relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. –Luke 12:32-36 (ESV)

Kingdom Concept #2: The poor in spirit are blessed with a relationship with God which allows them to see with eyes that value people regardless of their position in life.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed to me by my Father, and not one knows the Son except the Father, and not one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." –Matthew 11:25-27 (ESV)