

Speaker 1

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. The first attitude Jesus commands in the church is that we should understand and know together how much we need God. Human life is incomplete without a relationship of love with our Maker. As Augustine said you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. We should never grow out of knowing how much we need to guard this poverty of spirit. Jesus himself became poor for our sake. 2 Corinthians 8 9 the Old Testament presents us with a guard who is for the poor. The New Testament presents a guard who makes himself poor. This is a profound challenge to our wealth and self-sufficiency. The first beatitude calls us back to prayer to contemplation to being hungry and thirsty for God to spiritual renewal. This is true for us as individuals but even more true for our life together. If we are poor in spirit then prayer and worship will truly be at the center of our life together as we gather around Word and Sacrament to be renewed refreshed and strengthened by the Spirit for the coming week blessed does meek for they shall inherit the earth humility is the very foundation of the character of Jesus who for our sake emptied himself and took the form of a slave. Philippians 2 7 Jesus commends meekness as the foundation of the life of the church. We live fulfilled lives not by competing with others but in humility counting others better than ourselves. Philippians 2 3 the meek shall inherit the earth in our present day the whole human race needs to learn a new meekness and humility in relation to the earth human action is directly affecting our climate. We are together depleting the Earth's resources. The church needs to be leading the way in meekness and humility before creation. In loving and caring for the earth meekness is not weakness. The only person described in the old testament as meek is Moses one of the most strongest and most

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Speaker 1 (continued)

determined of leaders. Numbers twelfths free. Jesus as meekness as a sign of his strength as love ever comes hate and hope overcomes fear meekness is the foundation of prayer and contemplation. We come before God able to see God's glory the worth and needs of others and the glories of creation Blair said other pure in heart for they shall see God this beatitude is about authenticity and wholeness living from the inside out. Jesus unpacked some of what it means in the Sermon on the mount in his teaching on secret prayer secret giving and the importance of our inner life. Many people in our world live from the outside in. We are concerned with image with prestige with masks and with outward appearances. There is only one way to a pure heart. Christians are called to bring our fragile and divided hearts to God to see them made new to be washed and made clean and then to live from the inside out. We are washed and made anew from within. By the grace of God. Only then are we able to seek answers and a fresh vision of the world. To live a more contemplative life as a church and as disciples is to understand more deeply that we are poor in spirit that we need to be renewed in our relationship with God to clothe ourselves with meekness and humility before God and others and before the earth to be made clean and new from the inside to live an authentic and holy life.

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