Intro: 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught 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 meek, 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 are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I. Our ministry should include the poor in spirit – 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

a. This does not mean that you are financially poor

b. This could mean that they have a burden for the lost

c. This could mean those who are spiritually broken

• The “poor in spirit” means just as it sounds, those who need a spiritual pick me up. Those who have been kicked down, and those who has been looked down on, those who don’t think that they are important.

° 1 Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? Isaiah 66:1

II. Our ministry should include those who mourn – 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

This could mean:

a. Those who mourn for the lost

b. Those who mourn because of guilt before God

c. Those who mourn Christ will comfort

• The word mourn (pentheō) is the strong word possible for grief. It means to have a very deep, uncontrollable crying over someone’s death. Paul illustrates this over a man by the name of Epaphroditus who because of His sacrifice for the apostle Paul, brought a letter to him while being deathly sick and Paul said if he would have died it would bring him sorrow upon sorrow. We should have this kind of passion for the lost.

° 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Philippians 2:26, 27

III. Our ministry needs people who are meek – 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

a. Meek does not mean weak

b. They are in control of their walk with God

c. They are not prideful but humble

d. They are gentle and not easily provoked

e. They are forgiving and not revengeful

• They are weak. Meek Christian will show great restraint and are very strong in their discipline and faith. They are usually the one you turn to when your life is in disarray. They are steady, levelheaded, and self-controlled. Nothing will move them; nothing will shake them. They will go on each day in a humbled and kindhearted way, and you will never know that they are facing the same perplexities of life that you are facing.

° 11 But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. Psalms 37:11

IV. We need to have a Hunger and Thirst ministry – 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

a. They will teach the importance of living righteous

b. They will teach the importance of God’s Word

c. They will teach the downfalls of legalism

• Notice that these two must go together. We must have a contest hunger and a dying thirst for the righteousness of God. This is something that must be stressed often in our pulpits, in our teachings, and in our worship. If you are not hungry and thirsty for living a righteous life, then you are not righteous. It is only the righteous that seeks to live a righteous life.

° 1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1