LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 163

The Blessing of Poverty

> *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*
> **MATTHEW 5:3**

Written by Bill Perkins

He sat down-
the posture of a teaching Rabbi-
on a hillside curved like an amphitheater
above the glistening Sea of Galilee.

New grass brushed ankles.
Wildflowers painted the slope.
Birds circled in warm morning air,
gliding brushstrokes across the sky.
Crowds gathered around His voice.

On that hillside the beauty He designed
revealed the truth He proclaimed.

Then He "opened His mouth"-
a phrase that signaled
an important teaching.

The God who etched the Law
in stone on Sinai
now revealed the heart
within the stone.

The Ten Commandments weren't just rules.
They were the way of life under Yahweh's rule.
They were a picture of Jesus.

And now, Jesus unveils the Law
the prophets foretold
would one day be written
on human hearts (Jer 31:33).

The greatest preacher of all time
began the greatest sermon of all time-
with words that unveiled
an upside-down Kingdom-
the Kingdom Jesus describes
is the Kingdom He embodies.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

You may not know this about Jesus,
but in a single sentence
He overturned
every cultural norm
and every measure of worth.

"Blessed" doesn't mean happy.
It means God drawing near
with His favor
when human strength
and human hope
run out.

Jesus lifted the weak-
the poor in spirit,
those in poverty
who stand before God with
empty pockets,
empty dreams,
and open hands.

Like the tax collector
who wouldn't lift his eyes to heaven,
but beat his chest, pleading for mercy-
a sinner with nothing to offer God (Lu 18:9-14).

Like that humble man,
the Kingdom opens for us
in the place
where we admit our need.

Jesus begins His sermon
with the ones who know
they bring Him nothing-

because only empty hands
can receive the King
and the fullness of His Kingdom.

Will I bring my poverty to God
instead of my pride.

God meets me
not in my strength,
but in my poverty.

Father, show me my need for You.
In Jesus' name, amen.