



## Embracing the Past in a New Way

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* Matt. 5:3

From **Rocco A. Errico’s** book **“Treasures from the Language of Jesus”** (pages 15-16):

### ***Poor in Pride***

As Jesus uttered this first blessing, he had been pointing toward the gentle, humble, poor men and women in the crowd. Those in the heavenly kingdom, he said, were not proud and arrogant but were unassuming and gentle in spirit. But, who are those who surrender to God? They are those who transcend all racial, religious, national, cultural, and ancestral barriers, leaving human pride, glory, and worldly honors completely behind.

### ***A Translational Difference***

Interestingly, the first beatitude has been translated literally from the Aramaic in all Greek, and English versions of the Gospel of Matthew. The phrase, LMESKAYNAY BROOKH, “poor in spirit” is a common Aramaic phrase, referring to the poor who surrender everything including themselves to God.

### ***The Kingdom of Heaven***

The term “*kingdom of heaven*” refers to the universal kingdom of the Messiah-Christ, that is, the Anointed One.

This kingdom was to establish the reign of heaven in the hearts and minds of the peoples of the world. The reign of heaven symbolizes the universal establishment of justice, peace, love, joy, harmony, and goodness in the consciousness of each individual. This kingdom is free of all greed, pride, and prejudice.

The expression “*kingdom of heaven*” also implies a kingdom without boundaries. All kingdoms on earth have territorial limits. The heavenly kingdom is a spiritual domain, and it is not ruled over by human beings. The spiritual principles of the universal Christ rule and guide the people of this heavenly realm.

### ***The Meaning of Blessed***

The Aramaic term TOOWAYHON, “Blessed,” comes from the root word TOOB. This word is very difficult to translate into English. The closest English word is “blessed” or “blest.” Some translators have used the words, “lucky,” “happy,” or “fortunate;” but again, these English terms do not carry the full meaning or impact of the Aramaic and Hebrew word. TOOB means the best that a place or person has. It also means good in every variety of meaning as in well-being, beauty, success, and joy.

**Neil Douglas-Klotz** says in “*Prayers of the Cosmos*” (page 48) that one possible translation to this is:

“Tuned to the Source are those who live by breathing Unity; their ‘I can!’ is included in God’s....The Greek translators appear to have been at a total loss with these seemingly different meanings united around the image of the entire universe filled with one cosmic breath of life, the *rukha d’goodsha* or holy Breath. ‘Poor in spirit’ is a traditional Aramaic idiom meaning ‘humble,’ according to Dr. George Lamsa (1936). Behind this, the roots tell us that when one is attuned through the breath to God, one does not put oneself forward inappropriately. One’s readiness for action rests in the eternal silence of God’s Name.”

And from **Elizabeth Sand Turner’s** “*Your Hope of Glory*” (page 91):

“ ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’ This is the first of the eight great statements called the Beatitudes. Each statement says that we shall be blessed when we attain certain attitudes of the mind. The ‘poor in spirit’ are persons who relinquish their human concepts that they may learn from God. The intellect of man is marvelous indeed; yet, if we are to attain divine wisdom we must be humble (poor in spirit) toward Him and willing and eager to hear His words and follow them. This is the only way that our mind can expand Godward. As our mind develops, we come into the realization of the omnipresent good (the kingdom of heaven).”

From Reverend **Eric Butterworth’s** book “*Discover the Power Within*” (pages 58-59) he has great insights on the Be-Attitudes. He says:

“The root word that is translated ‘spirit’ is more accurately and meaningfully translated ‘pride’ – ‘poor in pride.’ Jesus says, ‘theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’ But keep in mind that ‘heaven,’ as Jesus uses the term, is not a place in the sky or a reward for after life. The word ‘heaven’ comes from a Greek root that means ‘expanding.’ Thus, Jesus is talking about the expanding potential within the individual – within you. Heaven is the potential of the Spirit in you that is wrapped in your human nature...You cannot storm the gates of heaven. You cannot achieve an understanding of God through the intellect alone.

‘Blessed are the poor in pride.’ Blessed are they who can let go of the attempt to understand intellectually, who accept the deep things of spirit as a little child. Blessed are they who are teachable, open-minded, receptive to the Truth, willing to renounce preconceived opinions and prejudices and entertain a new concept of life.

This is not an easy attitude of mind. To really *know* the Truth means so much more than *knowing* about the Truth...But to *know* the Truth you must keep on, beyond the end of the book, beyond the conclusion of the course of lessons. You must keep on until you catch on. It is not something you come to, but something that comes to you. It is an inward revelation.”

**Myrtle's realization – her aha “I am a child of God therefore I do not inherit illness.”**

This realization was the opening for Myrtle's healing process and the opening for Myrtle's healing process and in her open, teachable, humble state of consciousness, she acted on that realization – and consistently, committed to daily prayer. She was blessed by being “poor in spirit” and became the vehicle through which countless others received the opening to a whole new healing awareness – thus a worldwide movement – thank you Myrtle, and thank you God!

And as we return to “**Discover the Power Within**” (page 60) we read:

“ ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,’ who are receptive to the flow of good through them and who acknowledge God as the source. ‘Theirs is the kingdom of heaven’ – they will actually release the imprisoned splendor of the depths within themselves.”

**Ideas for Practice:**

This month I invite you to observe yourselves in these areas:

- 1) Being humble
- 2) Are you teachable – beginner's mind?
- 3) Open in mind and heart?
- 4) Surrendered – not my will, but your's God, through me
- 5) Tuned to God as source through prayer practice

Affirmation: “***I am open and receptive to the inflow and the outpouring of all there is in God.***”