

**The Pursuit of Happiness: Empty, yielded grounded
Matthew 5:1-5**

Why must God break our pride before he can bless us?

God's blessing is only available to those who are willing to receive as a gift what they cannot earn because...

- I. They are spiritually bankrupt and must renounce the pleasures of this world: emptied ones – brokenness Matthew 5:1-3.**
 - a. Blessed ones: μακάριος 50 in NT, 13 gospel of Matthew 11:6, 13:16, 16:17, 24:46. Translates ψυχ in LXX (cf. Psalm 1:1, 2:12, Dt. 33:29).
 - b. The poor in spirit and the kingdom cf. Lk. 16:19-31, 12:15-20.

- II. They feel the deep pain of their mortality and contrition for sin that makes them receptive to God's comfort – suffering ones – yieldedness Matthew 5:4.**
 - a. Those who mourn πενθοῦντες (10 times in NT- outward sorrow especially for the dead Matt 9:15, divine judgment Rev. 18:11, and sin 2 Cor 12:21).
 - b. They will be comforted: παρακληθήσονται (109 times in NT) cf. Is. 40:1-11, Lk 2:25, Matt. 14: 36, Rev. 21:3-5, 2 Thess. 2:16.

- III. Their true success is measured not by what they can earn but by what God can give – humble ones – groundedness Matthew 5:5.**
 - a. The meek: πραεῖς 4 times NT (where we get word for "friend" in English)- Matt 5:5, 11:29, 21:5, 1 Peter 3:4- someone who has a friendly attitude towards life rather than a confrontative attitude- humility from lat. Humus "earthy, grounded."
 - b. Inheriting the earth: Psalm 37:9,11.

Humanity's true greatness comes from realizing that, in spite of how small we are, God has provided a way to relate to him because of how great he is.

1. Before God can bless us, he must break us. When was the last time you came to him with a contrite heart? Psalm 51.
2. Empty, yielded, grounded: Which one of these three words captures the area where God wants you to grow?