

SCRIPT - Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

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Narrator

Lesson one , Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

[chalkboard noises] [school bell]

TEACHER – Today, class, we are going to have fun leaning about tolerance.

Tolerance means live and let live. We need to have a balanced life. Not too much of anything.

I brought a cup to school today to show you how this works.

[cup chink sound]

Watch what happens when I hold this big coffee cup sideways.

See? A perfect balance, not much can go in or out.

KID – excuse me sir. That makes it sound like we aren't supposed to believe in anything. Is that what you mean to say?

TEACHER – Yes! That's right, don't go too far in either direction.

KID – but if we did that then we could be tricked into believing anything that anybody tells us.

TEACHER – you should always respect what other people believe.

KID – even if they believe something evil?

TEACHER – there is no such thing as evil. What is bad for one person might be good for the next.

KID – even killing someone?

TEACHER – would you like to teach the class?

KID – well I would like to tell you what I think –is that ok?

TEACHER – [sigh] you've already told us what you think- but go ahead. [grudgingly]

KID – thank you sir, for being tolerant!

What I wanted to tell everyone is that my friends and I found a book in the trash. We had never heard of this book but we started reading it and decided to do whatever it says.

TEACHER – what kind of things does it say?

KID – well sir, like I said, we decided to do WHATEVER this book says. So, one of the things we read was –when your enemy slaps you on one cheek ...turn the other cheek and allow him to slap you also on that cheek....

TEACHER – excuse me, I think we've heard enough for today –I know what book you are reading and it is not a good idea to do everything it says in there. O-K ...so let's change the subject.

KID – But sir, no disrespect, but it sounds like you are not keeping your cup balanced. You were saying we should respect all views but now it sounds like all views except for the ones in this book.

TEACHER – if it will make you happy, I will tilt the cup a little further up on one side.

KID – but the book says that won't help.

TEACHER – why not?

KID – it says, Blessed are the Poor – these are people who see that they are empty.

TEACHER – I'm sure none of us has a clue what you are talking about

KID – don't you see that your cup isn't empty?

TEACHER – oh, sorry this is my coffee cup from last week, it's a little messy inside. I don't think you'd want me to pour it out right now [laugh]

KID – even if you did sir, it needs to be cleaned and filled up with clean water. May I show you what The Book says?

TEACHER – please don't start preaching at us... ummm... sorry we ARE tolerant of all beliefs -but can you make it quick?

KID – yes sir! May I take the cup for a minute? Thank you!

What this cup needs is to STAY under the water faucet here until all the old messy stuff inside is cleaned out.

[faucet]

TEACHER – nice try, but I still see plenty of coffee in the bottom

KID – yes sir, the messy stuff has been in there a long time and it takes a while but if we are patient and leave it under the faucet –all the coffee is gone and there is nothing but clean water....

[running water sounds – full blast, dripping, short burst]

...and it's pouring out, overflowing so that other people can have some.

THAT'S what the writer of The Book meant when he said, "Happy are those who see that they are empty"

We need to see that we are empty without Him in our lives

...and we need to allow ourselves to be COMPLETELY emptied until only He is filling us.

[school bell rings]

TEACHER – class dismissed. [disgusted]

Narrator

Blessed are those who know that they are spiritually bankrupt

Being bankrupt means that you have no more money in the bank

These are people who KNOW that without God their lives are empty

They also know that OTHER things have been trying to fill their lives

Do you know how to be emptied of those old things?

Don't just point your cup a little bit in the Lord's direction like the Teacher in the story

Turn your cup straight up -it's like surrendering

Now, at first there will still be junk in the cup but keep praying and keep reading the Bible

It took a long time for all that junk to get in the cup and it may take a while to get rid of it

But if the cup is staying under the fountain then finally all the junk is gone and there is nothing but clear water

Emptying your cup is like seeing that you can't be saved by the good things you do but only by having your old life replaced by God's life in you

You can't keep your cup full of worries and trash and expect God to fill you

He can't fill a cup that's already full of something else

There's a story in the Bible about a man who saw an expensive Pearl in a field

He was so HAPPY at what he found that he went and sold everything that he had to buy this field

What Jesus was saying is that those who follow Him have to let Him get rid of everything that is keeping them from following God

There is another story about a rich young ruler

Jesus told him to go and get rid of everything that was stopping him from following God

This young man went away feeling very sad, because he didn't want to be emptied and re-filled.

What about YOU??

The world says, "God helps those who help themselves"

That is a lie!

God fills those who turn their cups to Him

Turn your cup towards Him, and don't give up until it has been emptied and refilled!

[water flowing]

Happy are those who are poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven