♦SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, September 16, 2012

"POOR, HUMBLE, HAPPY"

(Matthew 5:3)

Our world longs for fulfillment, contentment, and happiness. Where is it to be found? Today we begin our walk through the Beatitudes – the "blessed" saying of Jesus. In the truth of His teaching, we will find all we need to live the life that prevails in joy.

1. We must accept our	·
• Your	
• Your inability to solve	and
• Your helplessness in	
2. We must receive	·
3. We must live with a	

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"Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income'" (Luke 18:9-12, NLT).

"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 18:13-14, NLT).

- 1. We must accept our spiritual poverty.
 - Your <u>debt of sin</u>.
 - Your inability to solve <u>life's problems</u> and discover <u>life's plan</u>.
 - Your helplessness in helping others.
- 2. We must receive **Christ and His riches**.
- 3. We must live with a conscious dependence on God.