THE CURE FOR WHAT "ILLS" YOU

Matthew 5:3

We humans are an interesting lot, aren’t we?

JOKE: YOU MIGHT BE A PREACHER IF you’ve ever wanted to “lay hands” on a deacon’s neck.

Romans 7:15, 18

15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.

18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. NLT

17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

We sin because we are sinners.

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

HURTS, HABITS and HANG-UPS

FEAR WORRY STRESS
ATTRACTIONS ANGER BAD HABITS
ADDICTIONS REGRETS
COMPULSIVE THOUGHTS

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from the inside. But, how does he get in there? Simple. An insect lays an egg in the apple
blossom. Sometime later the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats his way out.

Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through the person's thoughts, word and actions. (A Treasury of Bible Illustrations, 771)

**Ezekiel 28:2** NIV

In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god..." But you are a man and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.

In the SERMON ON THE MOUNT, Jesus tells us everything we need to handle everything we will experience in life.

He does so in verses 3-12 – THE BEATITUDES

These are the attitudes that are to be in your life.

**DO YOU REMEMBER TAKING TEST IN SCHOOL AND HAVING “MULTIPLE CHOICE” QUESTIONS?**

These 9 BEATITUDES are not a pick and choose deal.

ALL 9 are to be in your life as a believer.

So, went temptation arises, the anger flares, that evil desire rages, you want to have sex outside of your marriage or before you are married. What can you do to not do it?

Paul even felt this way and gives us the answer in

**Romans 7:24-25**

24 I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?
25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. THE MESSAGE

Jesus gives us the 1st step to THE CURE FOR WHAT ILLS YOU!

Matthew 5:3
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

We are going to look at this by asking 4 QUESTIONS.

1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF “POOR IN SPIRIT”?
2. WHAT DOES “POOR IN SPIRIT” LOOK LIKE?
3. WHAT DO WE DO TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT”?
4. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING “POOR IN SPIRIT”?

1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF “POOR IN SPIRIT”?  
First off, note that Jesus was not talking about living in poverty. There are 2 words in Greek for poor. 
“ptochos” – PA TO HOS  
“penes” - describes a man who has to work for his living; it is defined by the Greeks as describing the man who is autodiakonos, that is, the man who serves his own needs with his own hands. Penes describes the working man, the man who has nothing extra, the man who is not rich, but who is not destitute either.
"ptochos" - which describes absolute and abject poverty.
FROM - to crouch or to cower; and it describes the poverty which is beaten to its knees.
“penes” describes the man who has nothing extra,
Jesus uses the word for poor that describes the man who has nothing at all.

Jesus is saying, “Blessed is the man who is abjectly and completely poverty-stricken. Blessed is the man who is absolutely destitute.”

Jesus spoke Aramaic, which was the kind of Hebrew people spoke in his day.
Now the Jews had a special way of using the word Poor.

“'aniy” - aw nee
“'ebyon” eeb veron
1. They began by meaning simply poor.
2. They went on to mean, because poor, therefore having no influence or power, or help, or prestige.
3. They went on to mean, because having no influence, therefore down-trodden and oppressed by men.
4. Finally, they came to describe the man who, because he has no earthly resources whatever, puts his whole trust in God.

So in Hebrew the word poor was used to describe the humble and the helpless man who put his whole trust in God.

2. WHAT DOES “POOR IN SPIRIT” LOOK LIKE?

We get the picture of what “poor in spirit” looks like when we put both the Greek and Hebrew together.

The Greek describes the man who is absolutely destitute, the man who has nothing at all;
The Hebrew describe the poor, and humble, and helpless man who has put his whole trust in God.

**HERE'S THE PICTURE**
"Blessed are the poor in spirit" means:
Blessed is the man who has realized his own utter helplessness, and who has put his whole trust in God.

**TWO THINGS HAPPEN**
You will become detached from things and will become attached to God,

God alone can bring you hope, heal your hurts, and help break the habits.

The man who is poor in spirit is the man who has realized that things mean nothing, and that God means everything.

The poverty which is blessed is the poverty of spirit, when a man realizes his own utter lack of resources to meet life, and finds his help and strength in God.

Psalms 34:6
6 This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

**TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS**
*O soul, are you weary and troubled?*
*No light in the darkness you see?*
*There’s a light for a look at the Savior,*
*And life more abundant and free!*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,*
*Look full in His wonderful face,*
*And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,*
*In the light of His glory and grace.*
3. WHAT DO WE DO TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT”?

WE MUST IN HUMILITY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SPIRITUAL POVERTY TO GOD.

James 4:6
"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Ephesians 2:8-9
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 
not of works, lest anyone should boast.

4. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS WHEN WE BECOME “POOR IN SPIRIT”?

There are 2 benefits mentioned in this verse.

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

By humbling yourself, admitting you have and can do nothing to save yourself and by accepting God’s grace gift of salvation, you receive the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

Matthew 6:10
Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Kingdom of heaven is a society where God's will is perfectly done.
That means that only he who does God's will is a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven; and we can only do God's will when we
realize our own utter helplessness, our own utter ignorance, our own utter inability to get cure our hurts, habits, and hang-ups and when we put our whole trust in God. Obedience is always founded on trust.

So then, the first beatitude means:

O the bliss of the man who has realized his own utter helplessness, and who has put his whole trust in God, for thus alone he can render to God that perfect obedience which will make him a citizen of the kingdom of heaven!

THE SECOND BENEFIT JESUS MENTIONS FIRST.

“BLESSED” – O THE EXTREME BLESSEDNESS

“Makarios” - describes that joy which has its secret within itself, that joy which is serene and untouchable, and self-contained, that joy which is completely independent of all the chances and the changes of life.

Makarios does not mean “happy” or “happiness”

“happy” - the root “hap” - chance.

For many, happiness is something which is dependent on the chances and the changes of life. Life isn’t a bed of roses.

For some, happiness depends on money, the things they can OR CANNOT buy,

Being in a relationship, GETTING OUT OF A RELATIONSHIP

Getting a car, SELLING A CAR

Having a child, GETTING AN ABORTION
Making it through the terrible 2’s, then comes the TEENAGE YEARS.
Kids growing up and leaving home. KIDS GROWING UP AND NOT LEAVING HOME.

The blessedness Jesus speaks of is completely untouchable and unassailable.

*The beatitudes speak of that joy which sees us through our pain, that joy which sorrow and loss, and pain and grief, are powerless to touch, that joy which shines through tears, and which nothing in life or death can take away.*

**makarios/ makaria** The Greeks always called Cyprus “*he makaria*” which means The Happy Isle. They did so because they believed that Cyprus was so lovely, so rich, and so fertile an island that a man would never need to go beyond its coastline to find the perfectly happy AND BLESSED life. It had such a climate, such flowers and fruits and trees, such minerals, such natural resources that it contained within itself all the materials for perfect happiness.

*Blessed (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous — with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the poor in spirit (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!*

AMP

*O the bliss of the man who has realized his own utter helplessness, and who has put his whole trust in God, for thus alone he can render to God that perfect obedience which will make him a citizen of the kingdom of heaven!* — William Barclay
Note the “are” in your Scriptures.

We were all born ill, sick with sin. We’ve all got habits, hurts, and hang-ups. This is the place to be for help and healing.

Both the “blessedness”, and “the kingdom of heaven” is yours for the asking.