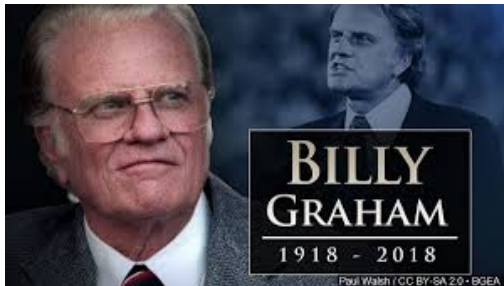




Beatitude of the Week!

#1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Billy Graham explained this beatitude simply like this: “We must be humble in our spirits. **If you put the word “humble” in place of the word “poor,” you will understand what He meant.** In other words, when we come to God, we must realize our own sin and our spiritual emptiness and poverty. We must not be self-satisfied or proud in our hearts, thinking we don't really need God. If we are, God cannot bless us.

Being ‘poor in spirit’ may sound like a negative thing. After all, who likes to think of themselves as being poor? If you go to an event with your friends and after paying more than expected to get into the venue realise you don't have enough for snacks it's just awkward and embarrassing to admit you are ‘poor’ and then have to ask your mates to help out. So at first it seems to make no sense that a ‘poor’ person would be considered ‘blessed’. However, Jesus’ reference to being **‘poor in spirit’ is about having a humble attitude** and **LIVING SIMPLY being prepared to Fully Rely On God** for what you may need.

So What does that mean for us this week?

What do you spend more time talking about with friends? People or possessions? It's all too easy to get caught up in the ‘need’ for the latest Xbox, i-Phone or such like. Think about how your attitude to these possessions might affect others. Are you proud to show off the expensive items you own? Do you share them easily? Perhaps you live with a ‘spirit of poverty’ and instead of boasting about things or **wanting what you don't have, practice being grateful for what you DO HAVE.** Being poor in spirit means living life simply with God. Jesus says that those who are **‘poor in spirit’ and are willing to seek God's help will be content, satisfied and blessed!**”

What's Your attitude to this beatitude?

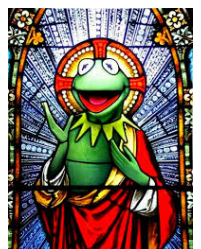
CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE:

1. Write a list of positive and negative attitudes. Which ones describe you?
2. Describe a time when YOU needed help. How did the situation get sorted?
3. **“Those with little tend to share a lot!”** Would you agree or disagree? Give examples
4. **Prepare a poster for the Prayer Board displaying this weeks Beatitude**
5. The Bible says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”.(James 4:6) What do you think this means?

Read and Reflect: Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

PRAYER: Dear God, sometimes we forget how much we have and get greedy for more. Forgive us for this selfish attitude. Help us instead this week to be more ‘poor in spirit’: humble in the way we speak to and treat others and to be grateful to you for the blessings you give to us. Amen.



Happy to chat about the blog, Christian faith, prayer requests and everything else (I am in Tue,Wed,Thu)
May we know real life lived out in faith, as individuals and as a community.

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