

## Character Over Image: "I am Humble" - Pastor Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes: October 6, 2024

Text: Matthew 5:1-3, Luke 18:13,14

**Introduction: Edit, crop, filter, photoshop...we live in a culture obsessed with projecting an image we want others to approve of and admire, but often what you see isn't what's real. We all want to make a good first impression, but what happens when you've seen through the filters, behind the facades and glimpse people's true selves. In a culture obsessed with curating image, we should be more concerned with cultivating character.**

*"Almost everyone will make a good first impression, but only a few will make a good lasting impression." Sonya Parker*

Reputation (image) is who others THINK you are.

Character is who God KNOWS you are.

- Character: "who you are when no one's looking"

In a culture obsessed with curating image, we should be more concerned with cultivating character.

Beatitudes: Beatus (Latin): Happy & Blessed

8 Beatitudes - Jesus addresses our attitude and outlook towards:

- Ourselves (v3) // Our Sin (v4-6) // Our Lord (v7-9) // Our World (v10-16)

Jesus miraculously opened some of their eyes physically, but wanted more than anything to open ALL of their eyes spiritually.

Blessed: Makarios (Grk): Supremely happy, not based on emotions or circumstances being altered, filled with inner satisfaction & contentment

POOR IN SPIRIT: losing your pride, self-sufficiency, coming to the end of yourself.

- "God only fills empty hands"
- 1 John 2:16
- James 4:7,8
- Luke 18:9-12 - 2 Warning signs of spiritual pride:
  - Your measuring stick is other people v11
  - You think God owes you blessing for your behaviour v12
  - Humility honestly assess our sinfulness in light of God's perfect holiness
  - Humility recognizes we deserve nothing, are owed nothing, but are supremely blessed.

*"The heart of pride never confesses, never repents, never asks for forgiveness.  
Pride is the hidden reef that shipwrecks the soul."*

Max Lucado



# Life Group Discussion

## Warm-Up:

**BUYER BEWARE!** Have you ever had buyer's remorse over buying something that didn't turn out to be what you thought it was? Was it bad marketing? Were you lied to? Did you not read the fine print?

## Study & Discussion:

Read Matthew 5:1-16

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) We all curate and edit our lives to put our best foot forward, it's natural to want to be perceived in a favourable light. When do you think this crosses the line into projecting something other than the truth? have you ever felt like you couldn't show people the "real" you? What about at church?

3) What do you think the difference is between being "poor in spirit", a humble view of yourself in light of God's holy perfection and poor self-esteem, a broken spirit that sees yourself as worthless? What might Jesus say differentiates the two?

Read Luke 18:9-12

4) Reflect on the two warning signs of spiritual pride creeping in, found on the other side of this sheet. Have you ever recognized or dealt with these 2 things in your life? How did you do it?

5) When did you first become aware of your 'spiritual poverty', your heightened awareness of your sin and brokenness in light of God's holiness and your need for repentance and forgiveness?

PRAYER:

