

“Blessed are the poor in spirit . . .”  
(Matt. 5:3)

“That Christ may make His home in  
your hearts . . .” (Eph 3:17).

For more than 1900 years, millions of Christians have prayed, “Lord, Thy kingdom come.” It appears that the Lord has not answered this prayer. Why is this? The problem lies not with Him, but with us.

As human beings, we are very complicated, with two main problems. The first problem involves our spirit, the deepest part of our being. The second problem concerns our heart, which surrounds our spirit. For Christ to sow Himself into our being, He must first get into our spirit, and from there spread Himself into every part of our heart.

Because our spirit is a problem, the Lord Jesus told us that we need to be poor in spirit in order to follow Him and to allow Him to sow Himself into us. To be poor in spirit does not mean to have a poor or weak spirit. It simply means to be empty in our spirit. Sadly, many Christians today have their spirits preoccupied with many things. They have both the Old and New Testaments. They may know something about Genesis

Exodus, Psalms, Matthew, John, and Acts. They know something about justification by faith. They know the Bible in the way of letters, but they have little revelation of the spiritual significance because they are filled up in their spirit. Because they are full, nothing more of the Lord Jesus can get into them and thus their growth stops.

In the parable of the sower, the seed is sown into the earth, which represents our being. **We are the earth.** However, as every farmer knows, not every place on the earth is good for sowing seed. Some places do not afford the seed an opportunity to grow. This brings us to our second problem—our heart. While our spirit is the place for the Lord Jesus to sow Himself into us, our heart is the place for Him to grow in us. In the parable of the sower, people who receive the Lord Jesus are likened to four kinds of soils: the wayside, the rocky places, the thorny places, and the good earth. The wayside is the margin of the field. Because it is close to the road, it has been trodden down by the traffic of the world and has become hardened, making it difficult for the seed to penetrate it. This signifies those whose hearts have become hardened by worldly traffic. They have no room for Christ,

having become usurped and occupied by education, commerce, science, politics, and other things.

The rocky places signify the heart that is shallow in receiving the word of the kingdom, because deep within are rocks—hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity—which frustrate the seed from gaining root in the depth of the heart.

The thorny places signify the anxieties of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for other things, which utterly choke the word, preventing it from growing in our hearts and causing it to become unfruitful.

The good earth signifies a heart that gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold.

In order to have the coming of the kingdom, Christ must be growing in us all the time. It is good to pray, “Thy kingdom come,” but it is more practical to pray, “Lord, grow within me.” By being poor in spirit and pure in heart, we give the Lord the ground to grow within us, and this growth will be the real coming of the kingdom.

## Matthew 7:21

Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will <sup>1</sup>enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

*Note 1 - To enter into the kingdom of the heavens, we need to do two things: call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved ([Rom. 10:13](#)), but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens, we also need to do the will of the heavenly Father. Hence, not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter into the kingdom of the heavens; but those who call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father will enter in.*

*Since entering into the kingdom of the heavens requires doing the will of the heavenly Father, it is clearly different from entering into the kingdom of God through regeneration ([John 3:3, 5](#)). The latter entrance is gained through being born of the divine life; the former, through the living of that life.*

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I offer you my heart, make it the good soil, a heart that gives every inch of its ground to receive You and Your word that it may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold. May Your Kingdom come in me. Amen."

# The Gospel of the Kingdom (3)

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## Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.