**Sunday, March 25, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Shout With Joy To The Lord –** Psalm 100

*Shout with joy to the Lord! Worship the Lord with gladness.*

*Come before him, singing with joy! Know that the Lord is God!*

***He made us, and we are his.***

***We are his people,******the sheep of his pasture.***

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.*

*Give thanks to him and bless his name.*

***For the Lord is good.***

***His unfailing love continues forever,******and his faithfulness continues******to each generation.***

*This is the Sovereign God we have come to worship!*Join me as we sing praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

**Song of Praise** – *And Can it Be*

**The Love Of God**

*Let us never forget that God loved us so much, He was willing to sacrifice His only Son, so that we might have salvation and the hope of heaven. I am sure when we come into the presence of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, we will stand amazed and say, “How marvelous, how wonderful, is my Savior’s love for me.”*

**Song of Worship** – *My Savior’s Love*

**Christ Crucified Printed In Our Hearts** –*J.C. Ryle*

*“Let us ever learn from the story of the passion, to hate sin with a great hatred. Sin was the cause of all our Savior's suffering. Our sins platted the crown of thorns. Our sins drove the nails into His hands and feet. On account of our sins His blood was shed. Surely the thought of Christ crucified should make us loathe all sin. Well says the Homily of the Passion, "Let this image of Christ crucified be always printed in our hearts. Let it stir us up to the hatred of sin, and provoke our minds to the earnest love of Almighty God."*

**Songs of Worship** – *The Look/Grace Flows Down*

**Offering**

**Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit *– (Charles Spurgeon; Excerpt from the sermon, The First Beatitude; Aug 5, 1909)***

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*The cause for placing this Beatitude first is found in the fact that it is first as a matter of experience. It is essential to the succeeding characters. It underlies each one of them and is the soil in which alone they can be produced. No man ever mourns before God until he is poor in spirit! Neither does he become meek towards others till he has humble views of himself.*

*Hungering and thirsting after righteousness are not possible to those who have high views of their own excellence—and mercy to those who offend is also a Grace, difficult for those who are unconscious of their own spiritual need. Poverty in spirit is the porch of the temple of blessedness. As a wise man never thinks of building up the walls of his house till he has first dug out the foundation, so no person skillful in Divine things will hope to see any of the higher virtues where poverty of spirit is absent.*

*Till we are emptied of self we cannot be filled with God. Stripping must be worked upon us before we can be clothed with the righteousness which is from Heaven. Christ is never precious till we are poor in spirit—we must see our own needs before we can perceive His wealth. Pride blinds the eyes and sincere humility must open them or the beauties of Jesus will be forever hidden from us.*

*The strait gate is not wide enough to allow that man to enter who is great in his own esteem. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a man conceited of his own spiritual riches to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Hence it is clear that the character described in connection with the first Beatitude is essential to the production of those which follow—and unless a man possesses it, he may look in vain for favor at the hands of the Lord!*

*The proud are cursed, their pride alone secures them the curse and shuts them out from Divine regard! “The proud He knows afar off.” The lowly in heart are blessed, for to them and to their prayers Jehovah always has a tender regard.*

*Lord, remove our pride and bring us to the place where we are hopeless and weak. For it is during that time you will give us the healing and grace that our hearts always hunger for.*

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

**Songs of Worship –** *Wonderful, Merciful Savior/ I Need Thee Every Hour*

**Message** – *“Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:3*

* *Blessed means happy*
* *The Sermon on the Mount is for the Child of God, not the lost.*
* *A spiritual need can never be met with a physical need.*

1. ***Poor***
   1. *To shrink, cower, cringe as a beggar.*
   2. *The purpose of God’s law is to reveal how holy God is and how hopeless we are.*
2. ***Why Humility First***
   1. *Humility is the* ***only*** *way into God’s Kingdom.*
   2. *The typical American church caters to the flesh of men, which makes humility difficult.*
3. ***How To Achieve Humility***
   1. *See God, not self*
   2. *Starve the flesh*
   3. *Ask God to give you a heart of humility; Psalm 51:10*
4. ***How Can We Know If We Are Genuinely Humble*** *(Thomas Watson quotes)*
   1. *We are weaned from self (Psalm 131:2, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:21)*
   2. *We will be lost in the wonder of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18)*
   3. *We will not complain about our situation ( 1 Peter 4;16, Romans 8:17-18)*
   4. *We will see the strength & virtues of others, as well as our sins & weaknesses (Philippians 2:3, Romans 12:10)*
   5. *We spend much time in prayer asking as a beggar for His help.*
   6. *We will take Christ on His terms…not our terms!*
   7. *We will be thankful & praise God for what He has, is, & will do for us & though us. (1 Timothy 1:14)*
5. ***Result Of Being Poor In Spirit***
   1. *We will inherit the Kingdom. (Isaiah 57:15)*

**Time of Prayer**