

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-10



Mount Gerizim
(Blessings)

Mount Ebal
(Curses)

Shechem





Matthew 5:1-2 ESV

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Matthew 5:3 ESV

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

A New Kind of Teaching

- The people heard something new and surprising
- Jesus did not praise pride or self-importance
- His words were:
 - ✦ Gentle
 - ✦ Refreshing
 - ✦ Full of love
- “Like rain upon the mown grass”

Jesus Understands the Heart

- People felt Jesus truly understood them
- He was kind and caring
- Their hearts began to open
- The Holy Spirit helped them learn truth

Two Different Attitudes

Proud Leaders:

- Thought they were spiritually rich
- Example: Pharisee (Luke 18:11)

Humble People:

- Felt their need
- Example: Peter (Luke 5:8)
- "I am a sinful man"

The Danger of Pride

- Those who think they are “rich” often:
 - ✦ Do not seek Jesus
 - ✦ Turn away from Him
- Pride closes the heart
- Feeling “full” leads to being empty

First Blessing

Matthew 5:3



Matthew 5:3 ESV

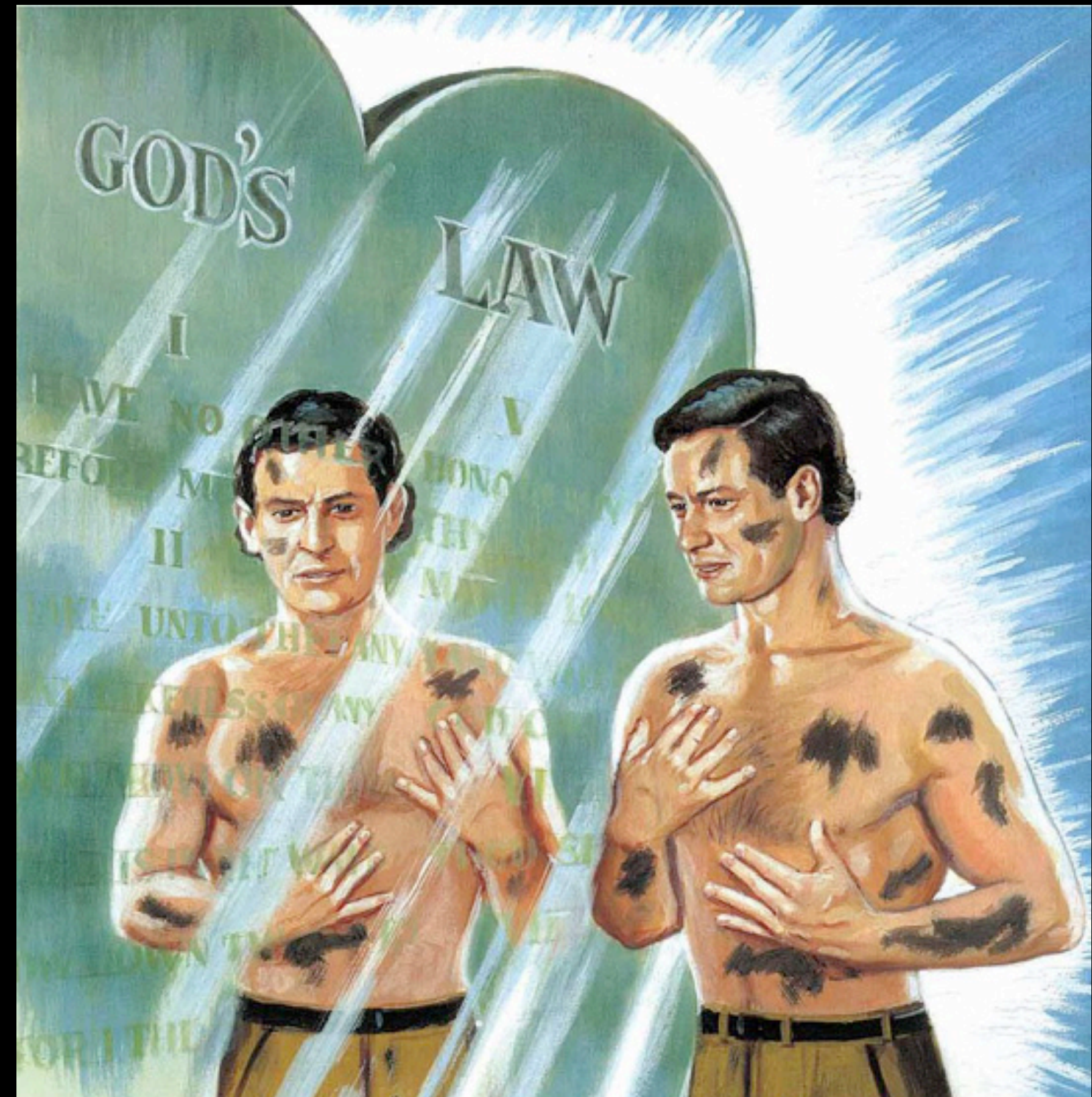
“**Blessed** are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

- Those who know they need help
- Those who cannot save themselves
- Jesus says:
 - ✦ They are **blessed**
 - ✦ They are ready to receive Him

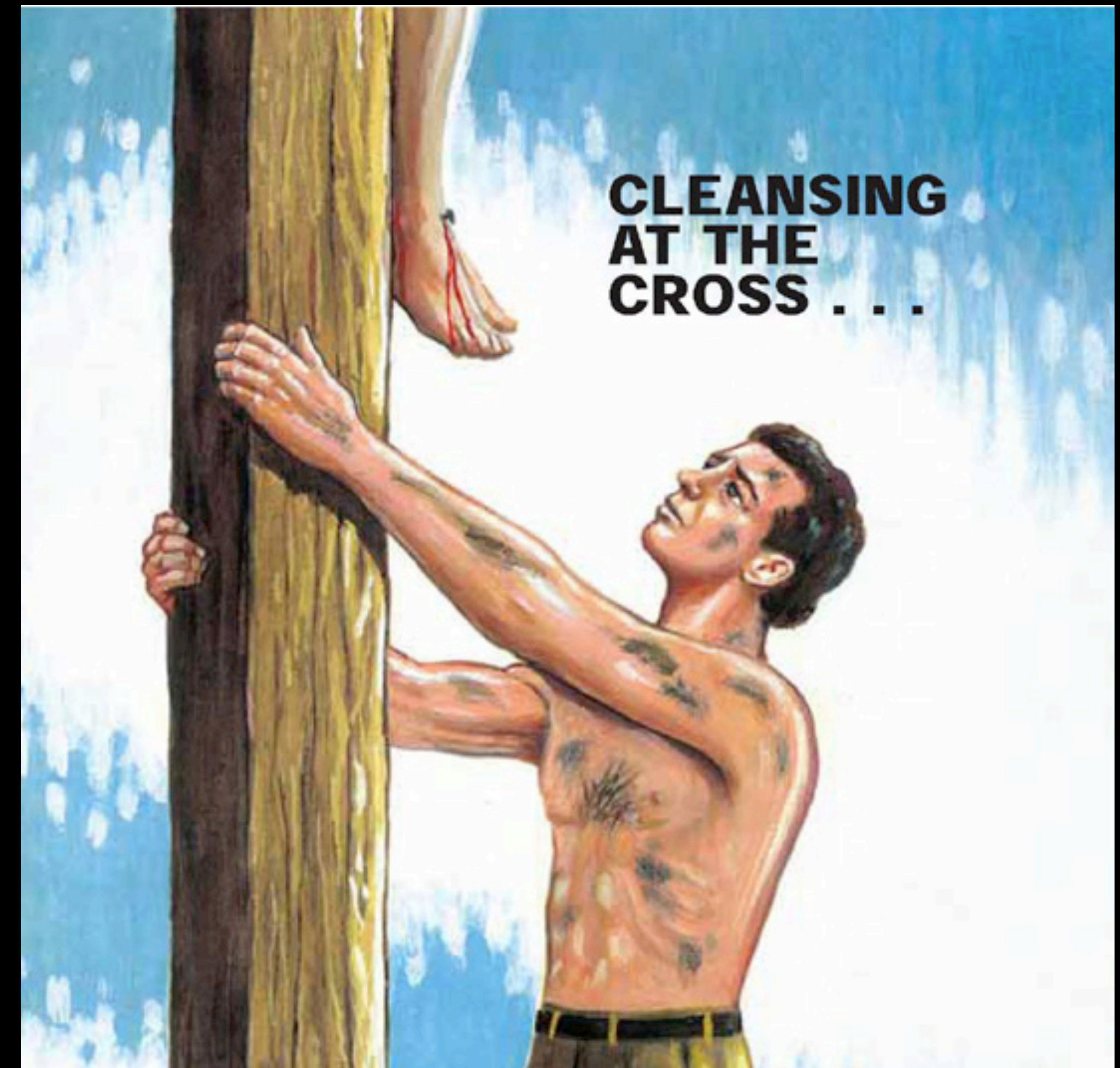
True Repentance

- Jesus helps us see our sin
- The Holy Spirit shows what is wrong
- Example prayer:
 - ✦ “God, be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13)



The Gift of Forgiveness

- Jesus forgives and cleanses
- "Lamb of God... takes away sin" (John 1:29)
- Promise:
 - ✦ Sins made white (Isaiah 1:18)
 - ✦ A new heart (Ezekiel 36:26-27)



The Kingdom of Heaven

- Not an earthly kingdom
- A spiritual kingdom
- Filled with:
 - ✦ Love
 - ✦ Grace
 - ✦ Goodness
- People are:
 - ✦ Humble
 - ✦ Gentle
 - ✦ Faithful

A Growing Change

- Change begins now
- Not yet complete
- Prepares us for:
 - ✦ “Inheritance of the saints” (Colossians 1:12)

Jesus' Invitation

- "Come unto Me..." (Matthew 11:28)
- Trade:
 - ✦ Our weakness → His strength
- Come just as you are

Christ Our Defender

- Jesus stands for us before the Father
- He took the sinner's place
- His sacrifice speaks louder than accusations

Our Righteousness in God

- *"In the Lord have I righteousness and strength"*
(Isaiah 45:24-25)
- We are:
 - ✦ Justified
 - ✦ Made strong through Him

Closing Thoughts

- Pride closes the heart
- Humility opens it
- Those who feel their need:
 - ✦ Receive grace
 - ✦ Receive forgiveness
 - ✦ Receive the kingdom