“The End of Me: Where Real Life Begins – The End of My Rope”
Kyle Idleman
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Introduction
In Colossians 3:3, Paul writes these words, “For you died to this life and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.” Paul says that real life and real living is hidden. It’s not just sitting out in the open, it’s not at the end of wide and easy path, it’s not found in the trappings and packages that most people settle for…it is hidden. To help us find the real life, Jesus left us a map of sorts. This map has eight “clues” that reveal where true happiness is found. In Matthew chapter 5, we are going to be studying the eight beatitudes that Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with. This sermon was different than anything the people had heard before. Jesus is going to take what people have heard or assumed and turn it upside down. Each beatitude begins with the word “blessed”.

Blessed Life: Living with a God-given joy and satisfaction regardless of outward conditions
• His first four words make it seem like He misspoke, “Blessed are the poor in spirit…” (Matthew 5:3).
• A person who is poor in spirit doesn’t act like they have it all figured out. Here on Earth we think a happy person is someone who is self-sufficient, self-reliant, and acts like they have it all together. For the crowd that Jesus was preaching to there was a lot of religious pressure to look like you had it all figured out—because you are “wealthy in spirit.” But Jesus says blessed are the poor in spirit.

Being Poor in Spirit: You reach a point where you realize you’re broke
• You can’t pay the bills, you can’t dig yourself out of the hole, you can’t take care of yourself. You desperately need help. Blessed are you when you realize the truth about your situation. Being poor in spirit means that you declare spiritual bankruptcy.

Being Poor in Spirit: You reach a point where you ask for help
• We don’t like to ask for help. We are often too embarrassed to admit our mess. We want to be self-reliant—we want to help ourselves. And that’s what we celebrate. There are no athletic awards for being “poor in spirit”; no one puts that on their resume or runs for office on that platform.

Conclusion
The Message paraphrases Matthew 5:3: “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.” If you try a “Do it Yourself” approach, instead of being blessed you’ll find that that you are tired and frustrated. We have all heard the phrase, “God helps those, who help themselves.” But that is not in the Bible anywhere. Instead what we find is this: God helps those who ask for help.