

Step 1 Handout

THE NEW TORAH (Step 1): The Gateway of the Empty Hand

Main Scripture: Matthew 5:3 | Isaiah 57:15 | Luke 18:9-14

I. The System Upgrade

Jesus didn't come to cut a new path; He came to show us where the original path was always meant to lead.

- **Torah:** Hebrew for "The Path" or "To Aim the Arrow."
- **Chet (Sin):** To miss the mark.
- **The Upgrade:** We are moving from a **Rulebook** (governing our feet) to an **Internal Compass** (directing our hearts).

II. Mowing vs. Rooting

- **The Old Way:** Like a lawnmower. It curbs external behavior for "curb appeal" but leaves the roots of sin intact.
- **The New Way:** Changing the soil. Jesus rewrites our nature so that the "weeds" of old habits stop growing from the source.

III. Step 1: Spiritual Poverty (*Ptōchos*)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." — Matt 5:3

- **The Truth:** You don't get into the Kingdom by being "good enough" (accumulating loyalty points). You get in by admitting you are spiritually bankrupt.
- **The Barrier:** Self-sufficiency. If you are "full" of your own resume, there is no room for God's grace.

IV. The Two Homes of God (Isaiah 57:15)

God dwells in two extremes simultaneously:

1. **The High & Holy Place:** His Transcendence. He is the King above all drama.

2. **The Crushed & Lowly Heart:** His Immanence (*Emmanuel*). He moves in with the broken.
 - **The Purpose:** He doesn't visit to pity you; He visits to **revive** (resuscitate) you.

V. The Great Exchange: My Response

- **Check the Compass:** This week, don't just ask "Did I break a rule?" Ask "Where is my heart pointing?"
- **Empty the Hand:** Identify one area where you are "carrying a resume" (trying to prove your worth). Mentally "drop it" and ask for God's mercy instead.
- **Invite the Paramedic:** In your moments of failure, don't run *from* God; remember that is exactly where He makes His home.

Memory Verse for the Week:

"What happiness comes to you when you feel your spiritual poverty! For yours is the realm of heaven's kingdom." — Matthew 5:3 (TPT)