

Series "The King And His Kingdom"
"The Blessing Of Poverty"
Matthew 5:3
Study-9

How Important Is This 1st Beatitude? –
No Salvation Apart From **"Poverty Of Spirit."**

"Blessed are" is used **nine times** in **11 Verses**.
The term **Blessed** – is translated **"Happy."**

Matthew 5:3-12 We start the **"Sermon On The Mount"** with what are called **"The Beatitudes"** meaning *"Have these attitudes" or "Beautiful Attitude"*

There are 8 Beatitudes:

Beatitudes 1-4 Our Response to God (Poor, Mourn, Gentle, Hunger)

Beatitudes 5-8 Our Response to Man (Merciful, Pure, Peacemaker, Persecuted)

This Message Is Positive: All eight characteristics that we should display in our lives are introduced with the word, **"blessed."**

This Teaching Is Filled With Paradoxes:

A paradox is something that is contradictory to what we'd normally expect.

Luke 17:33

The Beatitudes Develop:

They are like a ladder that must be climbed, one step at a time.

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Blessed Are Those Who See Themselves Spiritually Bankrupt With Nothing To Commend Who Then Come To Jesus."

- 1. Who Is The Blessed?**
- 2. What Is Poor In Spirit?**
- 3. What Is The Blessing Of Being Poor In Spirit?**
- 4. How Does One Become Poor In Spirit?**

1. Who Is The Blessed?

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed"

"Oh how happy.....To be envied...happiness" This word was used of Greek gods who alone were said to have possessed a joy and happiness that could only be enjoyed in the divine.

Blessed (Happiness) is the divine, God's approval upon us,
Literally *"The applause of heaven"* – a result of God Himself being pleased with us.

The World has a counterfeit happiness: (People or things)

The World's Happiness is based on HAPPENINGS! (**Externals**)

The most unhappy people are the selfish people.

If we desire God's Blessing, it must be done God's Way! Psalm 32:1-2

Who Is The Blessed?

Those whom God approves, heaven's applause- they have the blessing from Him.
(Those who have longed for God's approval over people.)

2. What Is Poor In Spirit?

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

Luke Has A Sermon On The Mount

Luke 6:20-49 has one chapter (30 verses) – **Matthew** has three chapters (107 verses)

Luke has four Beatitudes - **Matthew** has eight Beatitudes

Luke beatitudes focus on the negative – **Matthew** positives

Luke 6:20

Five Things That "Poor In Spirit" Is Not!

1. Poor In Spirit Is Not Speaking Of Being Physically Poor:

2. Poor In Spirit Is Not Monasticism:

3. Poor In Spirit Is Not Being Non-Assertive:

4. Poor In Spirit Is Not Great Thinkers....The Educated:

5. Poor In Spirit Is Not False Humility: "I am nothing...I'm just a nobody"

Ephesians 5:29

poor - means *"Destitute...having no sufficiency in self."*

Vacant of self, beggarly poor, would give the idea of a beggar so humble that his face is hidden, so dependent that without help would perish.

poor in spirit – notice that it is a spiritual condition.

"Blessed are those who are so desperately poor in their spiritual resources that they realize they must have help from outside sources." Psalm 34:6

This poor man cried, OT **poor man** – *"both afflicted and unable to save himself, he looks to God for salvation, nothing to offer God"*

James 2:5

Obviously, this principle contradicts the world's values.

Jacob – the trickster who wrestled with God, who was finally depleted of self!

Genesis 32:29 "and he blessed him there"

Moses – Who God chose and appeared to him. **Exodus 3:11 "Who am I"**

Gideon – God called him to be a judge and deliverer.
Judges 6:15 "My family is the least in Manasseh"

David – God called him to be king then told him that his descendant would be the Lord. **2 Samuel 7:18 "Who am I O Lord God?"**

Isaiah – God revealed Himself and commissioned him. **Isaiah 6:5**

Peter – God calling him to discipleship.
Luke 5:8 "Depart from me, For I am a sinful man, O Lord"

Paul – there was a thorn in Paul's flesh; he asked God to take it, but God said no.
2 Corinthians 12:10 "When I am weak, then I am strong"

God will only receive us when we realize that we have nothing to offer Him.

Justification By Grace Through Faith: Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9

3. What Is The Blessing Of Being Poor In Spirit?

Matthew 5:3 "Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven"

The Pro-noun is emphatic - Literally *"theirs and theirs alone is the kingdom of heaven."*

Kingdom of Heaven – *"ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ" belongs to God, and the family of God"*

Poverty Of Spirit Is Essential For Salvation:

No salvation apart from poverty of spirit.

Isaiah 57:15

God hates pride.....Spiritual pride: Isaiah 66:1-2

James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-7

What Is The Blessing Of Being Poor In Spirit? Three Great Blessings

- 1. Approved By God: (Blessed)** We receive the applause of heaven.
- 2. We Inherit The Kingdom: (Salvation)**
- 3. We Maintain Spiritual Growth: (Growth)**

The Church in Laodicea: Revelation 3:17-18

Poverty Of Spirit Is The Posture Of Grace: Spiritual need drives us to God!
The more mature we become, the poorer we become!

4. How Does One Become Poor In Spirit?

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Three Things We Need To Do:

- 1. Need To Look To God: Not Self, Or Man.**
- 2. Deny Ourselves: (Say No To Self)**
- 3. Ask God.....BEG: Psalm 51:4**

Anyone who thinks they deserve better has not come to the place of being poor in spirit! Luke 18:9-14

Application:

- 1. Who Is The Blessed?** Approved of God, Heaven's Applause.
- 2. What Is Poor In Spirit?** Being Spiritually Bankrupt; Nothing To Offer To God.
- 3. What Is The Blessing Of Being Poor In Spirit?**
 1. Approved By God: (Blessed)
 2. We Inherit The Kingdom: (Salvation)
 3. We Maintain Spiritual Growth:
- 4. How Does One Become Poor In Spirit?**
 1. Need To Look To God:
 2. Deny Yourself:
 3. Ask God.....BEG: Ask/Seek