



beatitudes:

**Blessed are the Poor
in Spirit**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! (Revelation 2:9 NLT).

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What's on the Menu?

Have you ever had a really good teacher? Most of us learn better when we are being taught by someone who teaches in a fun or interesting way. A good teacher challenges us to look at things differently, and to be open to new ways of thinking. Out of all the incredible teachers in history, none compare to Jesus. Jesus was a master at teaching in a fun, interesting way. Not only were His lessons interesting, but they constantly challenged His listeners to look at things in a different light. One of Jesus' most famous lessons is known as "The Sermon on the Mount." I don't think Jesus gave it this title, but that's what it's called because it was a sermon given on a mountainside. Jesus' "sermon" was focused primarily towards his disciples, but there was a large crowd listening in. This series will focus on the beginning of the sermon known as The Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are eight attitudes or ways of looking at things that Jesus says will result in a life full of blessing. Remember that Jesus loved to teach in a way that forced people to look at things a little differently. This week we'll look at the first beatitude—Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Appetizer:

1. What do you think the word blessed means?
2. How does our society tend to look upon "poor people"?
3. Why do you think there's so much pressure to have lots of money and material things?
4. If your family were to lose everything (house, cars, etc.) how would your happiness be affected?
5. Read **Matthew 5:3**. As a group, brainstorm and then write one definition for "poor in spirit".

Bam! There it is . . . Jesus is already making His disciples think in a different way. According to Jesus, those who are blessed and truly happy are those people who are poor. How can this be?

Main Course:

1. Read **Revelation 2:9**. John wrote this passage to a church suffering from tremendous persecution by the government.
 - Why do you think John was calling these Christians rich even though he knew they weren't?
 - What are some ways a Christian can be rich even if he or she is poor?
 - Take another look at your definition of "poor in spirit." How does it help you understand what John is saying in this verse?



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2. Now read **1 Samuel 16:7**.

- In this passage, God sent Samuel to look for the next King of Israel. Why do you think God was so concerned about the condition of the heart?
- Do you think it's true that people are usually more concerned about outward appearance than the inside or heart? Give some examples.
- When Jesus talks about being poor in spirit, He's talking about someone's heart. Jesus is saying that the truly blessed person is the person who realizes that his or her heart is broken, hungry, and "poor" without Christ. Why do you think He considers having a broken, hungry, and poor heart a blessing?

3. Reread **Matthew 5:3**.

- What do you think heaven will be like?
- Do you think there is anything here on earth that compares or even gives us a glimpse of what heaven is like?
- If Jesus considers being poor such a blessing, why do you think so many people try to use money to buy happiness? Explain.

4. Read **Matthew 6:19-21**.

- According to this passage, how important is earthly wealth?
- What do you think it means to "store up riches in heaven"?



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Something to Chew On:

As a group, discuss these final thoughts:

1. In what ways does this beatitude of being poor in spirit cause you to look at things a little differently?
2. Who has more wealth: a rich man who doesn't think he needs God or a poor man who recognizes his need for God? Explain.

Beatitude Bottom Line: When we recognize that we are spiritually poor without Jesus, we can inherit the riches of eternal life!

Prayer Requests:



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Taking it "To Go"

Memory Verse

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

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How can I apply this lesson to my life?

What is one thing I will commit to the Lord this week?

The "To Go" Box

1. Is there a promise for me to claim?
2. Is there a command for me to obey?
3. Is there a sin for me to confess?
4. Is there a lesson for me to learn?

Questions about this study I need answered...

