



The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7

THE BEATITUDES Part 1

Notes

Matthew 5:1-12 *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven...*

Introduction

The first Beatitude is more than the beginning of Jesus' sermon, it establishes the foundation and basis for everything that follows. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" describes the person who recognizes their complete need for God and dependence upon Him.

Jesus then reveals what life in the Kingdom really looks like.

The Sermon on the Mount is not a method to earn our way into the Kingdom through right behavior. It's a picture of the life that flows from those who know they need the King and have surrendered themselves to His rule. **Poor in Spirit is where it begins! Obedience to the King is the result.**

1. **Blessed are you when...** | When the Beatitudes tell us we are blessed, it means more than being happy. Happiness is a response to what may be happening to us. The word Jesus uses means favored by God, fortunate, privileged. Psalm 1 begins with the comparable Hebrew word, Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked...
 - Scan the QR code to view the full teaching on the Beatitudes.
2. **A Kingdom Reality** | Jesus is not describing an emotion, He is declaring a spiritual reality. The Beatitudes literally turn the world's definition of blessing upside down.
 - The world says, "Get to the top." Jesus says, "Become a servant." The world says, "Be first!" Jesus says, "If you want to be first, become the servant of all."

- This blessing is not measured from earth's perspective, but from Heaven's! The poor in spirit recognize they have nothing to offer God and are completely dependent upon Him.
 - That doesn't make us less capable; it changes the source of our confidence. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)
3. **A Negative Rebuke** | Laodicea (Revelation 3:17-20) was just the opposite. They said, "I am rich and do not need a thing," while Jesus said they were "poor, blind and naked."
 4. **Spiritual Boldness** | David was poor in spirit yet acted with supernatural boldness. He ran toward Goliath because his confidence wasn't in himself. Humility produced boldness in God's power. (1 Samuel 17:45, 47)
 - The poor in spirit can be incredibly bold when the source of their strength, safety, etc. is completely in and upon God.
 5. **Conclusion** | The follower who realizes they have nothing to offer God is the very one Jesus declares spiritually rich. When we stop depending on ourselves, we discover God's grace, His power, and His provision!

So the Question Is...

1. *What am I really trusting in and depending on? Is it what I have and what I can do... or am I completely depending on God?*
2. *Do I measure God's blessing by what I have, or by how close I am to Him? Am I more concerned about appearing successful before people or being approved before God?*

Prayer | Father, how I need You! Let my confidence never be in what I have or what I can do, but in who You are and what You can do through me. LORD, make me poor in spirit, and bold in faith. I continue to surrender myself to You.

Next Week | *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*