

The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

(1) “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”

 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV) “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

The Lord Jesus sees us.

 Matthew 5:1a (NIV) “Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down.”

 John 9:1–2 (NLT) “As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man who had been blind from birth. ² “Rabbi,” His disciples asked Him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

The Lord Jesus teaches us.

 Matthew 5:1b–3 (NIV) “His disciples came to Him, ² and He began to teach them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

1. The Poor in Spirit admit they need help.

 Isaiah 64:6 (NLT) “We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.”

 Romans 3:23 (NIV) “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

 James 4:6b (NIV) “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

 Proverbs 28:13 (NIV) “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

2. The Poor in Spirit ask God for Help.

 1 John 1:9 (NIV) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

 Romans 3:22–24 (NLT) “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins.”

 2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (NIV) “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”

3. The Poor in Spirit accept help from others.

 Romans 10:13–14 (NLT) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”

 Galatians 6:2 (NIV) “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

 Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (NIV) “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰ If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!”

 James 5:16 (NIV) “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

Digging Deeper—What are some things that makes it feel like Jesus is far from us? When you think of someone that is “blessed” what comes to mind? Why is it so difficult to admit that we need help? How does the phrase, “**God will not give us more than we can handle**” make you feel? Why must we be “**poor in spirit**” before we can be saved?