

# **More Like You**

## **Blessed are the Poor in Spirit**

### **Introduction**

**Jerry**

#### **Matthew 5:1-16**

**1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.**

**2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:**

**3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

**5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

**6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.**

**7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**

**8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

**10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.**

**12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**

**14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.**

**15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.**

**16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

**In these admonitions that have been called the beatitudes of Jesus, Jesus revealed to His disciples the major distinctions between those who follow Him and those who do not. He revealed the difference between the natural man and the Christian.**

**Jesus taught them that these characteristics and how they exhibited these characteristics is what would make them His city set on a hill, His light in this dark world.**

### **Brandon**

**This morning, we will focus on the first “blessed” statement on Jesus’s list, which is found in verse 3.**

#### **Matthew 5:3**

**3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Jesus did not come up with the order of this list arbitrarily. He had a reason for this order.**

**The first one on His list is the key to all that follows.**

**“Poor in Spirit”**

**An understanding of what it means to be poor in spirit is essential to understanding Jesus' sermon. Without this understanding, His sermon is lost on us. In fact, Jesus said that the poor in spirit would be the ones to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven!**

**All the other beatitudes are built on being poor in spirit!**

**Jerry**

**Why is that?**

**“In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus comes to us and says, there is the mountain that you have to scale, the heights you have to climb; and the first thing you must realize, as you look at that mountain which you are told you must ascend, is that you cannot do it, that you are utterly incapable in and of yourself, and that any attempt to do it in your own strength is proof positive that you have not understood it. It condemns at the very outset the view which regards it as a program for man to put into operation immediately, just as he is.” Martin Lloyd Jones**

**So, let's dive into what it means to be poor in spirit like our life and future as a Christian depends upon it. Because it does.**

**Body**

**Brandon**

**Let's discover three things together....**

- 1. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?**
- 2. What do you need to do if you are poor in spirit?**

### **3. How will becoming poor in spirit and turning to Jesus change your life?**

**Jerry**

#### **1. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?**

**To be poor in the bible means to be bankrupt financially. It means that your only way to survive is to beg someone for assistance.**

**The Greek word poor comes from a word that means to fall or to prostrate oneself before another that you are asking for help. This was a sign of humility. We see the poor all over our city standing on street corners asking for assistance. We frequently have poor people come by the church office asking for assistance.**

**To be poor in spirit means to be spiritually bankrupt!**

**Instead of begging for physical assistance, to be poor in spirit means you are begging someone to help you with the bankrupt condition of your soul.**

**Brandon**

**If you are poor financially, normally, no one must convince you. The evidence is that you don't have money to buy food or to pay your bills.**

**But this is not true of mankind spiritually. We must be convinced that our souls are bankrupt. The Jews listening to Jesus' sermon really needed to come to a place where they**

**believed their souls were bankrupt. The vast majority Americans that attend church need to come to this same understanding. There was a sense of entitlement for the Jews because they were children of Abraham. In the American church, there is a strong sense of entitlement. To be poor in spirit, we cannot assume God owes us anything. We need God to help us see the spiritually bankrupt condition of our souls so that we will see how much we need Him.**

### **Jerry**

**Jesus is very persuasive. Jesus taught the Jews that they were spiritually bankrupt; that their souls were bankrupt. His admonitions in this sermon drove this point home. In it He confronted their spiritual pride. They had an over inflated view of their own goodness. This sermon should have been sufficient to convince anyone that they were evil sinners whose souls were bankrupt.**

- **He condemned annulling the commandments of God**
- **He condemned murder in their hearts**
- **He condemned adultery in their hearts**
- **He condemned divorce for any reason**
- **He condemned making false vows**
- **He condemned seeking retaliation**
- **He condemned hating your enemies**
- **He condemned practicing your righteousness before men**
- **He condemned laying up treasures on earth.**
- **He condemned judging others.**

## **Brandon**

### **2. What do you need to do if you become poor in spirit?**

**You certainly need to turn to God. But which God will you turn to?**

**Jesus not only taught the Jews that they needed to be poor in spirit, but He also taught them that they needed to turn to Him to save them from their spiritual poverty.**

**Jesus proved that He was the Son of God by the signs He performed and the prophecies He fulfilled. Jesus promises that if anyone would follow Him, He will...**

- 1. Save them from judgment (erase their debt)**
- 2. Give them His life (overload their account)**

**When we realize we are spiritual bankrupt, if we turn to Him, He will enable us to become like Him. What a change! There is no one better than Jesus...**

**Jesus fulfilled all these blessed admonitions in the sermon on the mount. He never had to make amends to anyone. He wants to live His life through you.**

**So, if you are poor in spirit, what do you need to do? You need to turn to Jesus and depend on Him. He's the only one who can settle your sin debt and fill you with His life.**

## **Jerry**

### **3. How will becoming poor in spirit and turning to Jesus change your life?**

### **From the sermon on the mount...**

- **It will cause you to put away other sinful attitudes.**
- **It will cause you to put away dismissing the commandments of God.**
- **It will cause you to put away murder in your heart.**
- **It will cause you to put away adultery in your heart.**
- **It will cause you to put away divorce for any reason.**
- **It will cause you to put away swearing falsely.**
- **It will cause you to put away retaliation.**
- **It will cause you to put away hate for your enemies.**
- **It will cause you to put away practicing your righteousness before men.**
- **It will cause you to put away laying up treasures on earth.**
- **It will cause you to put away worry and anxiety.**
- **It will cause you to put away judging others.**

**It will cause you to put off the old man and put on the new man.**

**All these things will follow if you will be poor in spirit and turn to Jesus to save you!**

### **Conclusion**

#### **Brandon**

• **Have you ever been **poor in spirit** and turned to Jesus? Have you ever seen the bankrupt condition of your soul and turned to Jesus to save your soul?**

#### **Jerry**

- **If you believe you are a follower of Jesus, does your soul look like Jesus to those closest to you? Would they characterize you as something less than what looks like Jesus in the sermon on the mount?**

**Would they also describe you as...**

- 1. Self-centered**
- 2. Unreliable**
- 3. Inconsiderate**
- 4. Mean**
- 5. Abusive**

**Brandon**

**The word “Christian” means “Christ-like.”**

**Jesus’ goal in His teaching is that each of us would become more like Him. That His life would be lived through us.**

**For that to happen, we cannot be proud. We cannot be dependent on ourselves. None of us are good enough to keep the commandments of Jesus without His help. We need His power and His life in us to become more like Him.**

**But here’s the thing: We all face challenging circumstances in our lives. We can all drift from depending on Jesus to depending on ourselves or turning to someone or something other than Jesus.**

**I do not have to work to maintain my salvation! My salvation is secure in Christ by grace through faith. But it takes work**

**to stay poor in spirit and to depend on Jesus when faced with the challenging circumstances of life.**

### **Jerry**

**Transparency about the challenge of aging.**

### **Brandon**

**Transparency about emotional challenges.**

- **Drifting from depending on Jesus**
- **The great exchange of my life**
- **Grief for the old life – counting it as rubbish**

## **Invitation**

### **Jerry**

- **If you are seeing the bankrupt condition of your soul, turn to Jesus to save your soul.**

**If you are a follower of Jesus, pause right now and think about your most recent challenges. What have you been turning to when you face challenges of various kinds? Have your challenges been causing your relationship with Jesus to grow closer and closer? Or have you been depending on yourself and turning to someone or something else?**

**How can you make a conscious choice to see your need for Jesus and to turn to Him above all else?**

**Will you purpose right now to talk to Jesus as we pray?**

**Will you purpose right now to share this with your group this week?**