

Matthew 5:3

The Beatitudes: God's Blessing on Jesus' Disciples (Part 1)

Introduction to the Beatitudes

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit (v. 3)

Application of Matt 5:3-4

1. How else is the word “blessed” used in describing people in relationship with God throughout the rest of Scripture (e.g. Pss. 32:1-2; 34:8; 128:1-2; Prov 16:20; Is 30:18; Luke 11:27-28; John 13:17; 20:29; James 1:12)?
2. In what way are the beatitudes motivation to holy living? Jesus here isn't commanding us to do or be these things, but how do they motivate us to want to be like this?
3. Reflect on the meaning of the word “poor” in the first beatitude as it describes a beggar who has nothing and is completely reliant on others.
 - a. How does this picture illustrate the poverty of spirit we're to demonstrate before our Lord?
 - b. Ask God to remind you of your need to be a ‘spiritual beggar’ next time you see people begging.
4. Look up references to God's dealing with the spiritually poor e.g. Ps 34:18; 51:17; Is 57:15; 66:2. Negatively, look at Rev 3:15-17
5. Practice the following examples of how to grow in spiritual poverty:
 - a. Look to God (not ourselves or others): then we'll see who He is, who we really are, and our desperate need for Him.
 - b. Consider examples throughout Scripture and in your life today of spiritual poverty and seek to follow them.
 - c. Meditate on the truths of God's Word addressing this topic.
 - d. Pray: God will hear the prayer of a spiritually bankrupt saint calling out for His help.
 - e. Thank and praise God: When we're not poor in spirit, we're proud of spirit, so, choose to thank God for what He's done and given you.
 - f. Do what you can to cut off and starve your flesh of the things it wants to feed on. For example, if possible avoid tempting situations that might ‘puff you up’ and repent of any motives for the praise of men. Also, when you are praised by men, quickly transfer that to the Lord, for really He deserves the thanks and praise.
 - g. Pay attention to your heart: Ask God to convict you when you're focused on external appearances and not your internal spiritual condition.

Reading this week: Read Matt 5:3-10 each day this week.

Sermon Notes for Children (or Children at Heart)

Date _____

Pastor _____

<u>Book</u>	<u>Sermon Main Points</u> <i>The B _____:</i> <i>God's B _____ on Jesus' D _____ (Part __)</i>	<u>Other Bible References:</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<u>Chapter</u>	I _____ to the Beatitudes	
<u>Verses</u>	Blessed are the P _____ in S _____ (v. __)	

Words you heard during the sermon (tally each time)

God/Yahweh/ Father	Christ/Jesus/Lord	Blessed/Happy	Poor/Poverty	Spirit(ual)	You/Your

What is the message about? _____

How can you do this? _____

What/who can you pray for? _____

Draw a picture related to the message: