



# Matthew 5:3

## *Blessing of Spiritual Poverty*

Series: **The Beatitudes** 


Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

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### **Imagine have task this morning on writing your Resume**

- Highlight your strengths
- Use action words that show what you have done and what you can do
- Be positive
- Be relevant ....
- Imagine the resume is to God
- The position applying for- for God to bless you

### **Today continue our brief study in Beatitudes**

- Today continue to see the life that God blesses – those He calls eight times “blessed”
- Saw – these 8 descriptions are heart of Christianity
- Saw – that these are a picture becoming His
- Saw – progressive nature of beatitudes
  - So today – 1<sup>st</sup> one
  - Can't get beyond this until have it 
  - Is foundation for all else God will do in you

# I. What is Poor in Spirit?

## 1. Not speaking of Financial poverty

- a. Are many that are poor – not happy or blessed
- b. Not true historically or Biblically
- c. Important – some see this as – this verse and corollary in Luke – used for monasticism

## 2. It is Poor in the Spirit, in the realm of the Spirit

- a. If I said – poor mathematically, socially – understand – that it is in that realm
- b. So here – poor in the things that are spiritual

## 3. How poor is poor? Two main Gk word for

### a. Penēs means challenged


- i) Have idea of hurting, falling short

### b. ptōchos - completely devastated – broke

- i) Picture – open hand, empty, begging
- ii) German trans - “who stand with empty hands before God,” symbolizing absolute dependence

- c. Important – not making self poor – recognizing

## 4. Vital to see Poverty of Sprit for salvation

- a. Every convert begins here – seeing need for
- b. Must see your need for God
- c. All our righteousness is as filthy rags
- d. (Lk 18:9-14) 

## 5. Vital to spiritual growth

- a. Col 2:6-7
- b. Gal 2:20
- c. John 15:5
- d. Phil 4:13

## II. What is against Poor in Spirit

### **1. In one sense – goes against flow of world**

- a. Against your flesh – rebellion
- b. Jesus said best – have to deny yourself to follow

### **2. My main concern – is false teaching about this**

- a. 2 Tim 3 – Last days – will be lovers of themselves
- b. Picture of Laodicieans –thought great...not

#### **c. Lie is that need to love self to love others**

- i) Never says, do love self – care for
- ii) Focus on self – destroying

#### **d. Lie – to gain self worth – look at Cross**

- i) I hope I have never said 😊
- ii) This week – really had God show me about this, what a horrible mistruth that is
- iii) Cross is not a value for value transaction
  - A. Like at store, see what is worth at register
- iv) Cross is demonstration of the great love of God
- v) The focus is not me...but Christ
- vi) To the extent exalt self – devalue God

### **3. Not teaching self hatred – that is not poor**

- a. Truth is – still a focus on self
- b. This is a selflessness – no confidence in the flesh

# III. Dangers Poor in Spirit

## 1. Danger of Trying

- a. Horrible sense that many are “Trying” to live the Christian life – and failing
  - i) Come to church – rededicate to try
- b. One of two things happen
  - i) Overwhelmed – almost crazy
  - ii) Lower Christianity to “doable”
- c. Secret is not Trying but Dying

## 2. Danger of pride

- a. Danger is being successful, having power
- b. Story of Asa
  - i) Did good when young, trust
  - ii) When strong trusted own ways, wisdom
  - iii) Prophet – eyes of the Lord looking to and fro...
  - iv) Asa not humbled, diseased in feet, not seek God

## 3. Danger of stealing the glory

- a. Danger is focusing on the means God uses
- b. Imagine – Joshua, after Jericho trusting in their “marching skills” as means of success
- c. Happens, why God uses humble means – Gideon
- d. Danger is we focus on what we did in process
  - i) Like fasting – good for humbling, unless we trust in the fasting and not God
  - ii) My story of this summer- focusing on me

## IV. Spiritual Strength Test

- 1. Wonder if some are here in their Christian growth - Entire Christian experience about seeking this, God seeking to bring to and end of self**
  - a. See in Moses
  - b. See in Joseph, Jacob, David, Paul
- 2. Wonder if you are stopped in growth right now**
  - a. Wonder if this is what is holding back
- 3. Know God is working in me – constantly**
  - a. First a pastor – dreams of being “successful”
  - b. Then...wondering if “hidden years” would one day come forward showing me as a diamond in the rough.  
Now just feel like I am all rough

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## Conclusion

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### Humility Test

**First, if we are humble we will be weaned from ourselves.** One who is poor in spirit loses his self-preoccupation.

**Second, humility will lead us to be lost in the wonder of Christ,** “with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, ... being transformed into the same image from glory to glory” (2 Cor. 3:18). Self is nothing, Christ is everything.

**Third, we will not complain about our situation, circumstances**

Fully conscious that we deserve nothing better

Trusting God to give us all and exactly what we need

Content – for in Christ we can do all things, strengths us

**Fourth, we will live in spirit of praise, thanksgiving & worship**

Nothing more characterizes the humble believer than bounding gratitude to his Lord and Savior.

**Fifth, we will spend much time in prayer.** Just as the physical beggar begs for physical sustenance, the spiritual beggar begs for spiritual. We will knock often at heavens gate because we are always in need.

**What is your resume to God?**

# Gospel

## Romans 1-3

- Inherent knowledge of God
- Know Good and evil
- Know the Bible in part
- Guilty
- All your righteousness is filthy rags

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Lk 4:18-19)