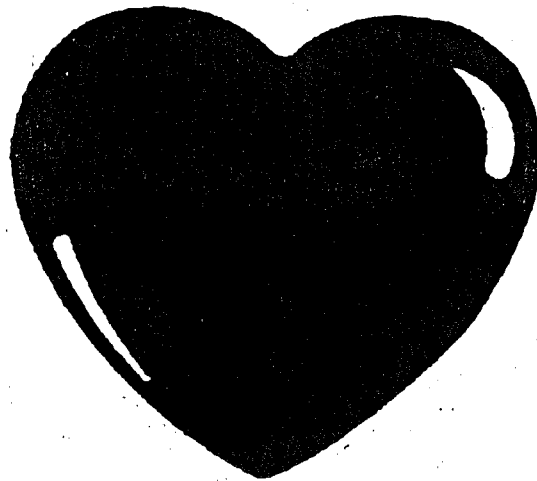


# **POOR IN SPIRIT**

**(How Poverty Of Spirit Allows God To Be All In All)  
Matthew 5:3**



**“OH WHAT GREAT REWARD”**

- ◆ Humility
- ◆ Submission
- ◆ Contentment
- ◆ Gratitude
- ◆ Communion

**“Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit, For Theirs Is The Kingdom Of Heaven”  
(Matthew 5:3)**

**Bill Kirk**

# “MATTERS OF THE HEART”

(Message #1)

**Text:** Matthew 5:1-12  
**Subject:** (Verse 3) “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”

## Introduction

1. The Sermon On The Mount is the first of five major discourses in Matthew.
2. It is a message from Jesus to His disciples (not to the multitudes).
3. The “Crowds” (or multitude) in v. 1 are those referred to in Matthew 4:23-25.
4. Jesus was touching the masses, but He saw the need to teach the disciples.

## (In Other Words)

- ◆ The crowds were following Jesus as He was healing the sick and delivering those tormented by the devil (4:24) (Jesus still does the same today).
- ◆ Great multitudes (4:25) were thronging Jesus from far and wide, (they were drawn to see Jesus do what Jesus still does).

**Question:** And what does Jesus do then?

**Answer:** He takes aside those who want to be healthy disciples (and be attached to Him).

**Question:** Why does Jesus do this?

**Answer:** He is driven to get alone with His disciples to equip them, prepare them and enable them to be spiritually healthy in life.

**Question:** What is Jesus’ intention?

**Answer:** Jesus intends to...

#1...Teach us how we are meant to live.

#2...Reveal what it takes to be truly spiritual people. (and)

#3...Show us the way to a blessed life.

**Fact:** The Sermon On The Mount is not a code or law!

**Fact:** It is not a mechanical do’s and don’ts list!

**Fact:** It is not a set of external rules! **(Instead)**

**Fact:** It is a matter of the heart!

**Fact:** It is a matter of the spirit!

**Fact:** It is a matter of the character!

**Fact:** It is a matter of your true self!

**Fact:** It is a matter of experiencing the pure joy of God!

**Question:** How many of you want to participate in the blessed life?

## Illustration

- ◆ I was standing next to two nurses waiting for the elevator in Basset Hospital in Cooperstown.
- ◆ It was the week after New Year’s Eve.
- ◆ One nurse said to the other nurse, (right in front of me):
  - “Did you have a good holiday?” (The other gal said, “Yeh, it was okay”)
  - “Did you go to any parties?” (Other gal said “No”)
  - “Did you do any dancing?” (Other gal said “No”)
  - “Did you get drunk?” (Other gal said “No”)
  - “Did you do any drugs?” (Other nurse said “No”)
  - “Did you have any sex?” (Other nurse said “No”)

(And then right next to me, the nurse asked her friend "How can you enjoy a life like that?")

Mathew 5, 6, &7 tells us how to **enjoy life like that...**

- ...How to be a blessed man or woman.
- ...How to be a blessed recipient of God.
- ...How to be a blessed enjoyer of life.

**(Being "Blessed" By God Is Entirely Biblical)**

**Question:** How many of you parents love to bless your sons and daughters?

**Question:** How many of you know that God longs to bless His own children (so that you can be a blessing to another)?

- ◆ Genesis 22:17 "In **blessing** I will **bless** thee".
- ◆ Numbers 6:24 "The Lord **bless** thee and keep thee".
- ◆ Psalm 5:12 "For the Lord will **bless** the righteous".
- ◆ Psalm 115:3 "The Lord will **bless** them that fear Him".
- ◆ Proverbs 8:32 "**Blessed** are those who keep my ways".
- ◆ Jeremiah 17:7 "**Blessed** is the man that trusts in the Lord".
- ◆ Psalm 1:1 "**Blessed** is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly".
- ◆ Revelations 22:14 "**Blessed** are they that do His commands".
- ◆ Psalm 84:5 "**Blessed** is the one whose strength is in the Lord".
- ◆ Isaiah 30:18 "**Blessed** are those who wait on the Lord".

**(In I Chronicles 4:10, The Prayer Of Jabez)**

"And Jabez called on the Lord saying, oh that you would **bless** me, enlarge my coast, let your hand be with me and keep me from evil, **and God** (what?) **God granted him that which he requested**"

**And, In Mathew 5**

**(8 choices that determine the quality of your life and mine)**

**(8 cause and effect blessings from the Lord)**

**(8 destiny determiners that we say "Yes" or "No" to:)**

**Cause**

**Effect**

- |                                     |        |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--|
| #1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, | (why?) | for they shall be given the kingdom of heaven. |
| #2. Blessed are they that mourn,    | (why?) | for they shall be comforted.                   |
| #3. Blessed are the meek,           | (why?) | for they shall inherit the earth.              |
| #4. Blessed are the hungry,         | (why?) | for they shall be filled.                      |
| #5. Blessed are the merciful,       | (why?) | for they shall receive mercy.                  |
| #6. Blessed are the pure in heart,  | (why?) | for they shall see God.                        |
| #7. Blessed are the peacemakers,    | (why?) | for they shall be called God's children.       |
| #8. Blessed are the persecuted,     | (why?) | for great is your reward in heaven.            |

**(Three Questions Today)**

- #1. What does it mean to be "Blessed"?
- #2. What does it mean to be "Poor in Spirit"?
- #3. What does it mean to be "Given the Kingdom of Heaven"?

**I. What It Means To Be Blessed?**

"**Blessed** are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven".

- ◆ The Greek word for "**Blessed**" is (MAKARIOS).

◆ The word (MAKARIOS) means:

- #1. Spiritual joy that exists inside regardless of conditions outside. (Repeat)
- #2. Satisfaction that carries a person through pain, loss, sorrow or grief. (Repeat)
- #3. Substance of the Spirit of God that is inward and abiding.

**Remember:**

- ◆ Outward (external) prosperity **cannot give it**, (and)
- ◆ Outward (external) adversity **cannot take it away**.

**Illustration**

- ◆ Blessedness from God is like the depths of the ocean – the surface changes – is sometimes calm and sometimes wavy, sometimes calm and sometimes tossed by the winds.
- ◆ Yet, far and deep below the surface, there is always the same changeless rest, silence and unbroken peace.

**Question:** How many of you want what God wants you to have....?

- ...A spiritual joy that exists regardless?
- ...A satisfaction that carries you through anything?
- ...A substance from God that is deep and abiding?

**Remember:**

- ◆ Jesus said, “**Blessed**” because He wants you to be what? “**Blessed**”!

**Question:** How can I be “**Blessed**” pastor?

**Question:** What are the choices I need to make that allow me to be “**Blessed**”?

**Question:** What is my cooperation in this process with God?

**Answer:** My cooperation is 8 choices I have to make and say “**Yes**” or “**No**” to. (Today’s choice #1.)

**II. What Does It Mean To Be “Poor In Spirit”?**

“Blessed are **the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven”.

**Question:** What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

- #1. It means to be consciously aware of our own spiritual poverty.
- #2. It means to be aware of our own spiritual need before God.
- #3. It means to see our helplessness apart from God.
- #4. It means to acknowledge our weakness within ourselves.
- #5. It means to admit our own spiritual deficiency.
- #6. It means to have the proper attitude towards ourselves.
- #7. It means to possess a total awareness of our nothingness apart from God and His Grace.

- ◆ It has nothing to do with our personality.
- ◆ It has nothing to do with our possessions.
- ◆ It has nothing to do with our posture.

**Instead**

- ◆ “Poor In Spirit” is like a can-opener.
- ◆ It is you and me cooperating with God, so that He can open our hearts to the secret of pure joy and happiness and blessedness.

**Question:** Pastor, how do you become poor in spirit?

**Question:** How do you obtain and maintain this spirit of blessedness?

**Question:** What will enable me pastor, to live Matthew 5:3 and be poor in spirit God's way?

### Write Down 4 Words

Word #1. **Scripture** (Look at the Scripture)

- ◆ (Isaiah 66:2) "To this person will I look says the Lord, he or she that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My Word".
- ◆ (Proverbs 22:4) "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life".

Word #2. **Saints** (Look at the Saints)

- ◆ **Isaiah:** "Woe is me for I am undone and unclean". (Isaiah 6:5)
- ◆ **Gideon:** "I am the least in my father's house". (Judges 6:15)
- ◆ **David:** "Who am I that you should come to me?"
- ◆ **Peter:** "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man".
- ◆ **Paul:** "I am the chief of sinners".

Word #3. **The Savior** (Look at the Savior)

- ◆ John 14:10 "I speak not of myself".
- ◆ John 5:19 "The Son can do nothing of Himself".
- ◆ John 5:30 "I can of Mine own self do nothing".

Word #4. **Self** (Look at yourself) (Why?)

- ◆ Romans 3:10 "There is none righteous no not one".
- ◆ Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".
- ◆ Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God".
- ◆ II Timothy 1:9 "Not according to our works, but according to His grace He saves us".
- ◆ Romans 5:6 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly".
- ◆ Romans 7:24 "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death"?

### III. What Does It Mean To Be Blessed With The Kingdom Of Heaven?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, **for theirs is the Kingdom Of Heaven**".

**Question:** What is the reward of someone who is "Poor in spirit"?

**Answer:** "...For theirs is the Kingdom of Heave".

**Question:** What does it mean to be rewarded with "The Kingdom of Heaven"?

- #1. Till we are "**Poor in spirit**", we are not capable of receiving grace.
- #2. Till we are "**Poor in spirit**", we are not capable of being devoted to the Lord.
- #3. Till we are "**Poor in spirit**", we can not even go to heaven.

**(But When We Are Poor In Spirit)**

- ◆ We inherit great blessings from God.

### Poverty In Spirit Carries It's Own Reward:

- #1. **Humility** – I can humble myself before God which will protect my heart from pride and self-destruction (and enable me to humble myself before others).

- #2. **Submission** – I can submit myself to God, authority and God’s sovereignty (without getting angry or bitter).
- #3. **Contentment** – I can abound (or be abased) yet remain constant; (I am protected from restless ambitions).
- #4. **Gratitude** – I can be grateful for everything because I am aware of my own poverty of spirit.
- #5. **Communion** – I can fellowship with the Lord in prayer because being poor in spirit leads me to depend totally upon the Lord.
- ◆ This is the reward of the “Poor in spirit”.
  - ◆ These are ingredients of the kingdom of heaven.
  - ◆ This is the quality of spirit Jesus desires for us.
  - ◆ This is the way of peace and tranquility.
  - ◆ This is the opposite of rage, anger, temper, unforgiveness, lust, greed, sin, and the flesh.

**“Poor In Spirit...”**

- ◆ ...gives me the liberty of having nothing to prove.
- ◆ ...spares me from having to promote me, myself and I.
- ◆ ...saves me the time of having to defend myself.
- ◆ ...keeps me from magnifying the weaknesses of others.
- ◆ ...maintains my deep joy even in trying circumstances.
- ◆ ...removes the snare of having to be recognized.
- ◆ ...opens the door to God’s embrace of my longing heart.
- ◆ ...provokes me to seek the Lord more and more.
- ◆ ...allows me to enjoy what I have and not covet what I don’t have.
- ◆ ...heals me of hurts that would produce a wounded spirit and slanderous tongue.
- ◆ ...forgives my offenders of every offence.
- ◆ ...can allow God to judge and render justice.
- ◆ ...delivers me from myself which is health to my spirit.

**“I’m Coming Back To The Heart Of Worship”**

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk, Pastor

**To The Degree My Heart is Emptied Of Myself (Poor In Spirit),  
To That Degree My Heart Will Be Filled With Jesus (And To  
That Degree Will Be My Blessed Happiness).**