



Sermon Discussion Guide

August 23, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 5:3 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

How does Jesus' definition of "blessed" differ from how our culture commonly uses the term? Why is it important that blessing be rooted in God's favor rather than in comfortable circumstances? In what ways does that give us greater hope?

Why should we understand the Beatitudes as a unified description of every kingdom citizen rather than a list of qualities from which we can pick and choose? How does that help us better understand what God seeks to do in us as believers?

What does Jesus mean when He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit"? What does spiritual poverty reveal about ourselves and our standing before God?

Why is being "poor in spirit" the appropriate starting point for the Sermon on the Mount? How should this first Beatitude shape how we hear the rest of Jesus' commands that follow?

What are some ways spiritual pride or self-sufficiency can subtly manifest in a Christian's life? What would it practically look like to approach God as someone who knows he has nothing to offer apart from Christ?

The Puritans said, "The Law sends us to Christ to be justified, and Christ sends us to the Law to be sanctified." What does that mean? How does this distinction keep us from both legalism and disobedience?

Compare the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14. What did each man believe about himself, and why was the tax collector the one who went home justified? How can his prayer, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," help us better see what it means to be poor in spirit?