
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Poor and in Need of God

Message #2 in the series

IN HIS OWN WORDS

Sunday, February 3, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him,² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. (Matthew 5:1-10, NLT)

1. **Jesus is directing this sermon to His _____, not to the _____ surrounding them. Those people have come to be _____ or to watch as others are healed.**

²³ Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ²⁴ News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River. (Matthew 4:23-25, NLT)

2. The Jewish people were looking for a _____ king on earth who would lead them in _____ over the Romans and all their enemies.

The Kingdom of Heaven – unlike other kingdoms – is not founded on the conquest of its kings, but on the character of its servants. (Jen Wilkin, *Sermon on the Mount*.)

3. The first 12 verses _____ for the entire sermon.

The word “blessed” refers to those who are and/or will be happy, fortunate, or as those who are “to be congratulated” because of God’s response to their behavior. (Craig Blomberg, *Matthew: The New American Commentary*, page 97.)

4. Jesus is taking all the _____ His disciples have about what His kingdom will look like on earth and turns them _____ with His own expectations for Christ-followers.

This is who you must be. This is the kind of person on whom the favor of God rests. This is what character looks like when you are a servant of the King of Heaven. Jesus is the character bearer and the character giver. (Jen Wilkin, *Sermon on the Mount*.)

As we begin working through the Sermon on the Mount, don’t listen to it as a story that was told to people who lived two thousand years ago, but instead think about Jesus speaking directly to you – looking into your eyes and knowing your heart.

His disciples gathered around him,² and he began to teach them.

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. (Matthew 5:1-3, NLT)

1. This is the most _____ principle of His Kingdom. It is foundational. We must possess this character first if we are to _____ God's favor.
2. Every other character found in the beatitudes will _____ on this foundation.
3. A person who is poor in spirit is someone who realizes they lack the _____ resources to improve their own _____ condition. They are totally _____ on God to meet those requirements.

Being poor in spirit is the opposite of self-sufficiency. Spiritual poverty includes the deep humility of recognizing one's utter spiritual bankruptcy apart from God. It describes those who are acutely conscious that they are lost and hopeless apart from divine grace. This opening verse clearly presupposes the truth of salvation by grace. Jesus teaches that the kingdom is a gracious gift to those who sense their own poverty of spirit. (John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*, page 1129.)

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT)

²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (Romans 3:22-25, NLT)

4. This first beatitude is a fulfillment of Luke 4:16-21:

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
¹⁹ and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹ Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!” (Luke 4:16-21, NLT)

- **This blessing is fulfilled in our lives today.**

5. As we realize our need for God, we come before Him _____, ready to be filled with His Spirit.

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. (Ezekiel 36:26-27, NLT)

6. What action steps do I need to take with God?

- **Ask God to reveal the _____
in your life. As He does, _____ each
one to Him.**

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23-24, NLT)

- **Spend time each day in God’s _____.**
- **Engage in daily and meaningful _____
with God, knowing that God is working in
you, giving you the desire and the power to
do His will. (Philippians 2:13, NLT)**