

Introduction

1. The greatest sermon preached by the greatest Preacher begins with nine “Blessed *are*” statements commonly called “beatitudes”
 - a. Each beatitude points to one glorious day when the great prophecies of [Isaiah 2](#) ([Isa. 2:1-4](#)), [Daniel 2](#) ([Dan. 2:31-45](#)), and [Joel 2](#) ([Joel 2:28-32](#)) converge at the hub of the Bible, [Acts 2](#)
 - b. That day is the day of Pentecost when the church of Christ sprouts forth from prophecy into fulfillment and realization
 - c. Each beatitude teaches us a powerful lesson on how to live within the kingdom of heaven, the church ([Mt. 16:18-19](#))
2. The first beatitude captures our attention as Jesus begins, “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” ([Mt. 5:3](#))
 - a. Blessed translates the Greek word *makarios* (G3107 mak-ar´-ee-os) meaning, “supremely *blest*; by extens. *fortunate, well off*:—blessed, happy (× -ier).” (Strong 46); “of humans *privileged recipient of divine favor*” (BDAG 611)

The Poor in Spirit Defined

1. God provides for the physically poor
 - a. Under the Old Law, provisions were made for the poor
 - i. Vineyard was not to be gleaned ([Lev. 19:10](#))
 - ii. Corners to be left in the field of harvest ([Lev. 23:22](#))
 - iii. Give to the poor ([Dt. 15:11](#))
 - iv. Wages were to be given to the poor promptly [before the Sun goes down] ([Dt. 24:14-15](#))
 - b. No oppression of the poor was allowed ([Zec. 7:10](#))
 - i. God pleads the cause of the poor ([Pr. 22:22-23](#))
 - c. Jesus kept a bag to be able to give to the poor ([Jn. 13:29](#))
 - i. The poor are to be remembered ([Gal. 2:10](#))
 - ii. Good is to be practiced to all men including the poor ([Gal. 6:10](#))
 - iii. A collection was taken up for the poor saints at Jerusalem ([Rm. 15:26-27](#))
2. The physically poor were those that were in a low position ([Jm. 1:9-10](#))
 - a. Hence, the idea of a beggar ([Lk. 16:20-22](#))
 - i. Lazarus just wanted the crumbs (table scraps fit for the dogs)
 - ii. A prideful beggar will not get far ([Pr. 18:23](#))
3. The poor in spirit are those that recognize their great need for the provisions of God and are humble

- a. Parable of the Pharisee and publican ([Lk. 18:9-14](#))
- b. The poor in spirit have poured out pride and selfishness so that they can be filled with the blessings of God ([Jm. 4:6](#))
- c. The poor in spirit tremble at the Word of God ([Isa. 66:1-2](#))
- d. God provides for the poor in spirit ([Jm. 4:10](#); [1 Pt. 5:5-6](#))

The Poor in Spirit Exemplified

1. Jesus knows exactly what it means to be poor
 - a. “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” ([2 Cor. 8:9](#))
 - b. “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.” ([Jn. 3:13](#))
 - i. Imagine coming down from Heaven to planet Earth, a place of great wickedness, sickness, sorrow, pain, and death (cf. [1 Jn. 5:19](#); [Rev. 21:4](#))
 - ii. Imagine being the eternal Word [God] and being made flesh dwelling amongst His creation who in turn rejects Him (cf. [Jn. 1:14](#), [10-11](#))
2. Jesus was born to a physically poor family ([Lk. 2:21-24](#))
 - b. Mary showed great humility ([Lk. 1:38](#))
3. Jesus came to be a servant ([Mk. 10:35-45](#))
4. Jesus is lowly in heart ([Mt. 11:28-30](#))
5. Jesus came riding into Jerusalem upon a donkey and the colt of a donkey, a lowly position ([Mt. 21:1-7](#))
6. Jesus became obedient to the death of the cross ([Phil. 2:1-8](#))
 - a. God did the exalting in due time ([Phil. 2:9-11](#))

Conclusion

1. If we wish to be great in the kingdom of heaven it will take being poor in spirit ([Mt. 18:1-4](#))
 - a. The kingdom of heaven, the church, must be filled with those that are poor in spirit
 - b. Those that are poor in spirit are filled with the great blessings of God
 - c. The body of Christ [the church] in turn blesses one another just like Christ ([Rm. 12:3-5](#), [10](#), [16](#))
2. If we are poor in spirit [humble], then Heaven is our home
3. “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” ([Mt. 5:3](#))