

## **UPSIDE DOWN: The Beatitudes**

Lesson Two • Matthew 5:3

### **The Riches of Poverty**

#### **The First Beatitude**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”  
Matthew 5:3

#### **The Riches of Poverty**

### **1. What Is the Kingdom of Heaven?**

#### **The Kingdom of Heaven**

Refers to God’s heavenly RULE coming down into this world  
through Jesus Christ the King.

*You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song  
before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12 NIV*

#### **One Big Problem**

We want the BLESSINGS of the kingdom of heaven, but we do not want  
heaven’s KING to rule our lives.

*But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, “We don’t want this man  
to be our king.” Luke 19:14 NIV*

*The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin  
and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there  
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:41-42 ESV*

### **2. Who Are the Poor in Spirit?**

#### **Description of the Poor in Spirit**

They are people who ACKNOWLEDGE their spiritual bankruptcy and  
complete dependence on God for their salvation.

*For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:  
“I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.” Isaiah 57:15 ESV*

*“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit,  
and who tremble at My word.” Isaiah 66:2 NIV*

*For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.  
Psalm 149:4 ESV*

#### **Illustration of the Poor in Spirit**

The story of two men praying in the temple: the Pharisee who was PROUD of his  
righteousness and the tax collector who BEGGED for God’s mercy.

*Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and  
despised others: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax  
collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like  
other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I  
give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as  
raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you,  
this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself  
will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14 NKJV*

### **3. What Is the Blessing for the Poor in Spirit?**

#### **The Blessing**

Those who are “poor in spirit” THEIRS IS the kingdom of heaven.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3*

*For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into  
the kingdom of the Son He loves. Colossians 1:13 NIV*

#### **The Warning**

Those who are not “poor in spirit” will not RECEIVE the kingdom of heaven.

#### **You Need Poverty of Spirit**

The only way to obtain poverty of spirit is to look to JESUS and see  
what He has done for you by grace through the Gospel.

You cannot earn the kingdom of heaven. Instead, you must acknowledge  
your impoverished condition and depend on God’s plentiful provision in the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ, then the kingdom of heaven will be yours.