

A person is sitting on a hill, looking up at a vast, starry night sky. The scene is illuminated by a soft, warm light, possibly from a setting or rising sun, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere. The text "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT" is centered in the sky.

BLESSED ARE
THE POOR IN SPIRIT.

February 22, 2026 - Matthew 5:3

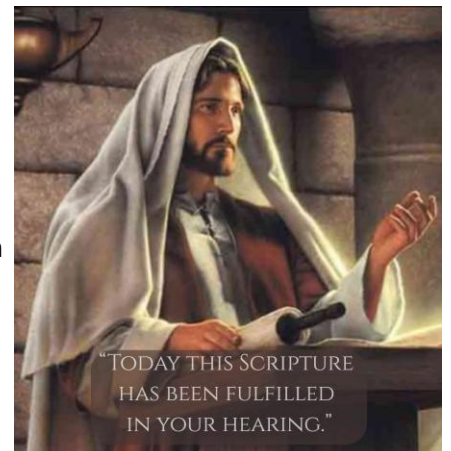
- Our natural tendency is to posture ourselves as the alpha.
- God is so glorious that He does not need us to be glorious. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:1 - Sermon on the Mount/ Beatitudes

- Jesus goes up on the “Mountain” to connect His ministry to Moses going up on Mount Sinai.
- Beatitudes is Latin for blessing: favor, approval, and endorsement.
- The Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12) come from Isaiah 61. Isaiah 60 speaks of Israel’s future blessings. Isaiah 61 is a Messianic passage about Jesus making these future blessings a reality (Lk 4:16-22).

Matthew 5:2-3 - The Poor in Spirit

- Being poor in Spirit is the key to entering into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Jesus is identifying His hearers as the “poor” in Isaiah 61:1. The “Poor” in Isaiah 61:1 = poverty (Lk 6:20, 24), affliction and meekness (Num 12:3).
- Jesus is the Anointed One preaching to them the good news. Time of fulfilment has begun (Is 60-61; Lk 4:16-22).



Are You Poor in Spirit?

- Are you poor in Spirit? Is God so glorious in your heart, that you do not feel the need to be glorious?
- Are you “poor in worldliness?”
 - It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 19:24).
 - If your life is full of the things of the world, you will not care about Jesus’ Kingdom (Matt 6:24).
 - If your trust is in worldliness you won’t trust in Jesus.
- Are you “poor in religion (Phil 1:6; 1 Cor 3:6)?”
 - Jesus often got on the Pharisee’s case for not being “poor in religion” (Luke 18:9-14; Phil 3:3-9).
 - Grow in being humble and hungry. Being “rich in religion” can be very sneaky.

Four Ways to Grow as On-Earth-As-It-Is-In-Heaven People

1. God is so glorious, He doesn’t need us to be glorious.
 - “God’s power begins where self-reliance ends” –Lee Strobel.
2. If we try to implement the Kingdom by our power, then it isn’t the Kingdom of Heaven.
3. Take a chance on being poor in Spirit.
4. The Kingdom will come through people who are truly poor in Spirit.
 - Being poor in Spirit does not mean self-deprecation or low self-esteem.
 - Do not put on a poor-in-spirit façade.



He Must Increase, I Must Decrease!
“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”