



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 5:3

(3) "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A Faithful Version

Those who possess poverty of spirit are pronounced "blessed." In one sense, they are blessed because they now have a disposition the very opposite of their natural one. This is perhaps a fundamental proof that [God](#) has begun working in them by His Spirit to create them in His own image. Poverty of spirit is part of the nature of our Creator, as [Jesus](#) affirms in [Matthew 11:29](#).

God makes many promises to those of this disposition:

- "But I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God" ([Psalm 40:17](#)). If God is thinking on someone, he has the attention of the One with greatest power, [wisdom](#) and [love](#) in all the universe!
- "The humble shall see this and be glad; and you who [seek God](#), your hearts shall live. For the LORD hears the poor, and does not despise His prisoners" ([Psalm 69:32-33](#)). One can be glad even in difficult circumstances because God hears the poor and He will deliver.
- "For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy" ([Psalm 72:12-13](#)). Beyond deliverance, these verses promise mercy in judgment and perhaps salvation to the [poor in spirit](#). No wonder Jesus calls them blessed!
- Psalm 107:41 is a psalm of thanksgiving: "Yet He sets the poor on high, far from [affliction](#), and makes their families like a flock." God will make sure that in time the poor in spirit will receive exaltation. Their families, too, receive blessings.
- Two psalms reveal the eternal destiny of the poor. [Psalm 113:7-8](#) says, "He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash

heap, that He may seat him with princes—with the princes of His people." [Psalm 132:13-17](#) reads, "For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation: This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for [joy](#). There will I make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed." In these psalms salvation and glory are definitely promised—the ultimate in blessing!

Truly blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the [Kingdom of God](#)! This is an attitude we should fervently seek to pave the way in becoming a whole new man.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Beatitudes, Part Two: Poor in Spirit](#)

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