



# **THE BEATITUDES – A SERIES: PART 3 OF 11**

**Golden Gate Church of Christ**

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## LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

“How blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

James 1:12 NAS



## THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

**“O Lord of Hosts,  
How blessed is the man  
who trusts in Thee!”**

Palms 84:12 NAS

- Instructions:
  - Read aloud as a group
  - Repeat as a group



## PART 3 – POOR IN SPIRIT

- The Text For This Series: **Matthew 4:23-5:12**

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



## Class to give ideas / thoughts:

- What do we think about when we think about “the poor” or “being poor”?



# WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE POOR:

## THE POOR

### ○ Care for

- A characteristic of saints. Ps 112:9, with 2 Co 9:9; Pr 29:7
- A fruit of repentance. Lk 3:11
- Illustrated. Lk 10:33-35
- Should be urged. 2 Co 8:7-8; Gl 2:10

### ○ Christ delivers. Ps 72:12

### ○ Christ lived as one of. Mt 8:20

### ○ Christ preached to. Lk 4:18

### ○ Condition of, Often results from:

- Bad company. Pr 28:19
- Drunkenness and gluttony. Pr 23:21
- Sloth. Pr 20:18

### ○ Defend. Ps 82:3-4

### ○ Despise not. Pr 14:21; Ja 2:2-4

### ○ Do justice to. Ps 82:3; Jr 22:3, 16

### ○ Give to

- Cheerfully. 2 Co 8:12; 9:7
- Liberally. Dt 14:29; 15:8, 11
- Not grudgingly. Dt 15:10; 2 Co 9:7
- Specially if saints. Ro 12:13; Gl 6:10
- Without ostentation. Mt 6:1

### ○ God

- Delivers. Jb 36:15; Ps 35:10
- Despises not the prayer of. Ps 102:17
- Exalts. 1 S 2:8; Ps 107:41
- Forgets not. Ps 9:18
- Hears. Ps 69:33
- Is reproached by mocking. Pr 17:5
- Is reproached by oppressing. Pr 14:31
- Is the refuge of. Ps 14:6
- Maintains the right of. Ps 140:12
- Protects. Ps 12:5, 109:31
- Provides for. Ps 68:10; 146:7
- Regards equally with the rich. Jb 34:19



## THE POOR - continued

- **Guilt of defrauding.** Ja 5:4
- **Harden not the heart against.**  
Dt 15:7
- **Made by God.** Jb 34:19; Pr 22:2
- **May be**
  - Liberal. Mk 12:42; 2 Co 8:2
  - Rich in faith. Ja 2:5
  - Upright. Pr 19:1
  - Wise. Pr 28:11
- **Neglect toward, is**
  - **Inconsistent with love to God.**  
1 Jn 3:17
  - **A neglect of Christ.** Mt 25:14-45
  - **A proof of unbelief.** Ja 2:15-17
- **Offerings of, acceptable to God.**  
Mk 12:42-44; 2 Co 8:2, 12
- **Oppression of, illustrated.**  
2 S 12:1-6
- **Oppress not.** Dt 24:14; Zc 7:10
- **Pray for.** Ps 74:19, 21
- **Provided for under the law.**  
Ex 23:11; Lv 19:9-10
- **Punishment for**
  - Acting unjustly toward. Jb 20:19, 29; 22:6, 10; Is 10:1-3; Am 5:11-12
  - Oppressing. Pr 22:16; Ezk 22:29, 31
  - Refusing to assist. Jb 22:7, 10; Pr 21:13
  - Spoiling. Is 3:13-15; Ezk 18:13
- **Relieve.** Lv 25:35; Mt 19:21
- **Rob not.** Pr 22:2
- **Rule not, with rigor.** Lv 25:39, 43
- **Shall never cease out of the land.**  
Dt 15:11; Zp 3:12, Mt 26:11
- **Should**
  - **Commit themselves to God.** Ps 10:14
  - **Hope in God.** Jb 5:16
  - Rejoice in God. Is 29:19
  - When converted, rejoice in their exaltation. Ja 1:9



## THE POOR - continued

- **Shut not the hand against.**  
Dt 15:7
- **Such by God's appointment.**  
1 S 2:7; Jb 1:21
- **Take no usury from.** Lv 25:36
- **They who in faith believe**
  - Are blessed. Dt 15:10; Ps 41:1; Pr 22:9; Ac 20:35
  - Are happy. Pr 14:21
  - Have promises. Pr 28:27, Lk 14:13-14
  - Have the favor of God. He 13:16



- **The wicked (treat the poor)**
  - Care not for. Jn 12:6
  - Crush. Am 4:1
  - Defraud. Am 8:5-6
  - Despise the counsel of. Ps 14:6
  - Devour. Hk 3:14
  - Grind the faces of. Is 3:15
  - Oppress. Jb 24:4-10; Ezk 18:12
  - Persecute. Ps 10:2
  - Regard not the cause of. Pr 29:7
  - Sell. Am 2:6
  - Tread down. Am 5:11
  - Vex. Ezk 22:20
- **Wrong not in judgment.**  
Ex 23:6





- Are “the poor” we’ve been discussing, the same as “the poor in spirit” Jesus is talking about in Matthew 5:3?
- No, but it’s very important to understand who the poor are, what it means to be poor, how the poor should be treated, etc. in order to understand the analogy Jesus is making when he talks about the “poor in spirit”.
- “The poor” in a *physical sense* generally inspires the idea of **being needy, lacking, or wanting** for money, material things, clothing, housing, food, etc. Essentially **dependent** on others.
- In a *spiritual sense*, being “poor in spirit” would imply essentially **being needy or wanting ... dependent ... *on God alone* ...** despite all.



# THE BIBLE IS LITERALLY **FILLED** WITH EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE THAT WERE “POOR IN SPIRIT”. SOME EXAMPLES:

(Class to give brief [elevator ride length] summary of these lives & how they exemplify being poor in spirit – or dependent on God alone.)

- NOAH
  - Genesis 5:32 – 9:29
- ABRAHAM & SARAH & LOT (their Nephew)
  - Genesis 11:26 – 25:11
- JOSEPH
  - Genesis 37:1 – 50:26
- MOSES
  - Exodus 2:1 – Deut. 34:12
- RUTH
  - Book of Ruth
- DAVID
  - I Sam. 16:6 – I Kings 2:11
- JOB
  - Book of Job – Ultimate Story of “Poor in Spirit”
- DANIEL
  - Book of Daniel



## ○ JESUS

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John – The Gospels and, Acts 1:1 – 8

## ○ BLEEDING WOMAN

- Matthew 9:20 – 22

## ○ SAMARITAN WOMAN

- John 4:7 – 42

## ○ STEPHEN

- Acts 6:8 – 7:60

## ○ Saul / PAUL

- Acts 8:1 – rest of N.T.

- Poor in Spirit – being needy, wanting, or dependent on God in all things = FAITH



Hebrews 11:1 – 12:4

- In Conclusion:
  - Would you consider yourself “Poor in Spirit”?
    - Are you needy, wanting, or dependent on God alone?
  - Would God consider you “Poor in Spirit”?
    - Does God count you as a Person of Faith?
  
- Next time we meet we will examine the second Blessing from the Beatitudes:

**“Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.”**

Matthew 5:4

