

## Poor in Spirit

### Isaiah 1:16-20

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Today we’re going to \_\_\_\_\_ the blessedness of being “poor in spirit.” How we \_\_\_\_\_ of God makes all the difference in the world. If we love Him and humble ourselves before Him, God will \_\_\_\_\_ us richly; but if we \_\_\_\_\_ to give Him our respect and our obedience, we’ll find the blessed life disappear. The more we get away from God, the more the blessings of God get away from us. That’s why we continually go to the Word of God, the Bible, to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth of God and the blessing of God. You won’t find it anywhere \_\_\_\_\_. God’s way is the \_\_\_\_\_ way, the blessed way, and the \_\_\_\_\_ way.

Nebuchadnezzar was the most \_\_\_\_\_ man in the world in his day. God allowed him to have this power in order to \_\_\_\_\_ Israel for her sins. Three times Nebuchadnezzar’s army entered Jerusalem, and the third time completely \_\_\_\_\_ the city, including the temple. Nebuchadnezzar’s home was the great city of \_\_\_\_\_, whose hanging gardens were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Chapter four of the book of Daniel tells how Nebuchadnezzar became \_\_\_\_\_ and said, “Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?” Because he forgot God, and he forgot that God was the true ruler of the world, God \_\_\_\_\_ him by making him like a beast of the field for three and a half years. He ate grass like \_\_\_\_\_, and his hair and his nails grew long. Afterwards Nebuchadnezzar \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Most High God. He learned his \_\_\_\_\_ for God the hard way.

### **Our reading today from God’s Word comes from Isaiah 1:16-20.**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to hear Jesus speak in \_\_\_\_\_? The crowds gathered to the mountain to \_\_\_\_\_ Him speak. They hung on every \_\_\_\_\_. The people knew about Jesus’ power to heal, His godly \_\_\_\_\_, and kind ways. **Read Matthew 4:23-25.** These people wanted to hear what the Master had to say—I hope that you have that kind of \_\_\_\_\_ for the Word of God.

The beginning statement of a sermon is usually what catches people’s \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus made a surprising and captivating \_\_\_\_\_ about being “poor in spirit.” “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). He started His sermon talking about \_\_\_\_\_ who are “poor in spirit.” He started there because He knew how \_\_\_\_\_ being “poor in spirit” was to our relationship with Him and with the Father. If

we're not "poor in spirit", we may never have \_\_\_\_\_ for God in our lives. The blessed person not only has room for God; the blessed person cannot \_\_\_\_\_ without God!

What does it \_\_\_\_\_ to be blessed? The word "blessed" means \_\_\_\_\_ than being "happy." Happiness is merely an \_\_\_\_\_, and it's often dependent upon \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances. To be blessed here refers to the ultimate well-being of a person, a person who has a lasting \_\_\_\_\_ joy arising from his relationship with God. The beatitudes are not \_\_\_\_\_ statements; they're exclamations! They're saying that these are the kinds of people that God sees as having the \_\_\_\_\_ in well-being.

Habakkuk, a prophet in the Old Testament, lived at a very \_\_\_\_\_ time. **Read Habakkuk 3:17-19.** Oh, a relationship with God is a wonderful and fulfilling blessing, because it assures us of an \_\_\_\_\_ home, and even when our world here falls apart here, we have a time with God.

The Lord Jesus, before His death, gave some \_\_\_\_\_ to His apostles. Jesus knew that He would be crucified and they would be \_\_\_\_\_, but the Lord said, "Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will \_\_\_\_\_, and no one takes your joy away from you" (John 16:22). In Christ, no one can take away our \_\_\_\_\_ or our \_\_\_\_\_. In Christ, we have forgiveness, the right to \_\_\_\_\_, eternal life, and an inheritance in heaven. No one can \_\_\_\_\_ this away from us! We may have all kinds of change in this world, but \_\_\_\_\_ can change and take away all the joys that Christ gives. If you're counting on this world to bless you, remember this world is fickle and temporal, but Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.

We don't always see things the \_\_\_\_\_ God sees them. The people that we \_\_\_\_\_ are blessed aren't necessarily the ones that God says are blessed. God said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The world \_\_\_\_\_ riches, honors, fame, intelligence, appearance, and strength. These beatitudes emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ dispositions, not \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances; so God has different values than people do. **Read Jeremiah 10:23-24.** Men shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ over their human wisdom, power, or wealth. These things don't make a man blessed in God's \_\_\_\_\_. If you wish to boast about something, boast that you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord God of heaven who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth. Those things are \_\_\_\_\_ valuable.

When God \_\_\_\_\_ someone blessed, he is blessed indeed! God never lies but calls things as they \_\_\_\_\_ are! If anyone else blesses you, that blessing may last for a time, but God's blessings last for \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives and beyond this life. God's blessings are \_\_\_\_\_

physical and spiritual. He meets our physical needs for food, water, clothing, and shelter; but He also meets our \_\_\_\_\_ needs. Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

In Christ, we do have every spiritual blessing that we could even \_\_\_\_\_ for. We have access to the Father, peace, joy, assurance, and love. In Christ, we have forgiveness. **Read Romans 4:7-8.** Forgiveness through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ opens the door to an eternal fellowship with God on earth and in heaven, and that’s truly a blessed state and condition!

The Lord said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” There are two words for \_\_\_\_\_ in the New Testament. First, there are those who are poor who are \_\_\_\_\_ and have to work from day to day just to earn a living. They have food and clothes enough to \_\_\_\_\_ but very little else. Second, there are those who are destitute beggars, living in \_\_\_\_\_ poverty—the person who has nothing at all and is desperate. It is this second word that’s used here; and that’s what makes this so \_\_\_\_\_! The blessed person is the one who “in spirit” has \_\_\_\_\_ at all. He has nothing and is utterly \_\_\_\_\_ upon God.

The “poor in spirit” are not the \_\_\_\_\_ as people who are “poor-spirited”, that is, who are dejected or self-pitying creatures who go about in fear or in indifference. No, this is speaking of people who \_\_\_\_\_ their spiritual poverty without God. They realize they have an utter \_\_\_\_\_ and a dependence upon God. Since they know their condition, they’re humble and they yearn for God’s \_\_\_\_\_. They put their whole \_\_\_\_\_ in God. They realize they owe their existence and their \_\_\_\_\_ to God. They realize that on their \_\_\_\_\_, without God, they’re \_\_\_\_\_ in sin and have no hope. They know they cannot \_\_\_\_\_ their salvation.

**Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** A person “poor in spirit” will become wholly dependent upon God—that is, God means \_\_\_\_\_ to him! We must realize that we need God’s help and we need His \_\_\_\_\_; only God can give us eternal life. We must put our \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

A person “poor in spirit” doesn’t invent his own \_\_\_\_\_ and he doesn’t invent his own way to be \_\_\_\_\_. A person “poor in spirit” is willing to \_\_\_\_\_ and do what God says and do it God’s way. He doesn’t try to \_\_\_\_\_ God or \_\_\_\_\_ God’s laws or morals. He doesn’t propose his \_\_\_\_\_ solutions to the problems of sin or \_\_\_\_\_ God’s wisdom and justice. He loves God and is willing to follow the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ from Him.

Because a person “poor in spirit” realizes His need for Jesus to be His \_\_\_\_\_, he also regards Jesus as His \_\_\_\_\_! He \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord and takes what God says seriously. God said, "But to this one I will look, To him who is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2). Does the Word of God make you

\_\_\_\_\_? It should. God's Word will one day determine your \_\_\_\_\_ destiny. God is the eternal authority, and one day you will have to give an \_\_\_\_\_ for your life to Him.

When we think about all of these matters, one of the things that we realize is that God is the only one who could make the moral \_\_\_\_\_ of life. The Pharisees were a sect of Jews that lived by its own human \_\_\_\_\_ and judged others for not keeping their rules. They would even judge \_\_\_\_\_ for not keeping their traditions! They were \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. The Lord Jesus said, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone [that is the Pharisees]; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:13-14).

A proud person doesn't think he needs God's \_\_\_\_\_ and he thinks God should be honored just to have him around. **Read Luke 18:9-14.** God cannot use a man who is \_\_\_\_\_ of himself because such a man has no \_\_\_\_\_ for God!

The Bible also tells us of an arrogant \_\_\_\_\_ that didn't know it needed the Lord. **Read the message the Lord Jesus sent to the church in Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-20.**

Oh, these things \_\_\_\_\_ because we all stand in the utter need for God. My friend, are you "poor in spirit?" Do you need God?

Blessed is the person who has realized his own utter helplessness and who has put his whole trust in God, for only by emptying himself out can he render to God that perfect \_\_\_\_\_ which will make him a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Obeying God is a \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith, our love, and our attitude toward Him. James said a man shows his faith by his \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24). You must \_\_\_\_\_ out your pride and your willful ways and \_\_\_\_\_ yourself before God if you wish to enter the kingdom of heaven.

To become a Christian, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves so that we may \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ! Trust in the Lord with all your heart, remove the sin from your hearts and lives in \_\_\_\_\_, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ by being immersed in water. Baptism is when our old man of sin dies and we're born again to \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of life. **Read Romans 6:3-4.** Start a new life in Christ today by obeying the Lord!

Let me also encourage you to get involved in the church. When you're baptized, the Lord saves you and adds you to His church. As a Christian, you keep your connection with God by staying faithful in His church. Don't think that you can go it on your own. You need the Lord and you need His people to help you stay faithful and to reach heaven. Get involved in church!