

**The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**  
**S7E8**  
**The Poor In Spirit - Matthew 5:3**

**Description – Today we begin to examine the Beatitudes, beginning with the Poor In Spirit.**

Today we are finally going to get into Matthew 5, into the Beatitudes.

**Matthew 5:3**

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

As a recap, these are not just rules to follow, but these are a way to live in order to orient yourself to the best life, or human flourishing.

Jonathan Pennington, Commentary on the Beatitudes:

<https://www.amazon.com/Sermon-Mount-Human-Flourishing-Theological/dp/1540960641/>

The Beatitudes are a challenge and an invitation. They're a challenge to live up to, a standard, but an invitation by God to live for Him and be empowered by Him to live this way.

The Beatitudes and Jesus's teachings are more about how to live day to day, a lifestyle to emulate. They're not about some future kingdom that God will establish one day, they're for living in the kingdom of God here and now.

The sermon on the mount is Jesus's teaching for how to live in the kingdom, the kingdom ethic, in the here and now. How to flourish in the kingdom and in your life today, how to be blessed, happy and flourishing today.

When you live this way, you will flourish.

The Beatitudes are laid out in a Chiasm. It's a literary device the Jews used in the Hebrew language to draw out or amplify the importance of something.

1A  
    2A  
        3A  
            4  
        3B  
    2B  
1B

Scholars debate on the exact number of beatitudes, some say 8, some say 9.

If you go with 8, the middle two are the emphasis.

Not only are the Beatitudes set up as a Chiasm, but so also the whole Sermon on the Mount.

The centerpoint of the whole sermon on the mount is the Lord's Prayer.

#### **Matthew 6:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. <sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. <sup>15</sup> But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

The beatitudes are bookended with the phrase, "...for the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

#### **Matthew 5:3**

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Someone who is poor in spirit is someone who has a right view of themselves. They recognize that they're dependent on God for everything.

Someone who is poor in spirit is not prideful, is not self focused. They are walking daily in the strength, power and provision of God.

It's interesting that Luke just mentions "poor" and not "poor in spirit" in his gospel.

#### **Luke 6:20**

<sup>20</sup> Then looking up at his disciples, he said: Blessed are you who are poor, because the kingdom of God is yours.

Jesus is showing us two things:

1. It's not a bad thing to be poor in spirit, dependent on God.
2. You have access to the Father through the Kingdom.

It's no accident that Jesus begins the beatitudes with the declaration of Poor in Spirit.

The key that unlocks the door into the entrance of the Kingdom of Heaven is Poor in Spirit. It's all about humility before God.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's not thinking of yourself at all. When you understand and have a right perspective of God, you'll naturally focus on God.