

**RADICAL LIVING**  
**The Beatitudes and Us**  
**Lesson 1**

Matthew 5:1-10

These verses come from the most famous sermon ever preached, the sermon on the mount. The lessons they contain must have been very important because they are at the very beginning of the sermon.

We should note that the beatitudes do not describe different types of Christians. All Christians are to manifest all of these characteristics. We are to be different in what we seek...and what we long for.

In this lesson, we will consider the first beatitude.

***Matthew 5:3***

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**1. What “Poor in spirit” is not.**

To be poor in spirit is not material poverty.

To be poor in spirit does not mean poor-spirited.

Poor-spirited people lack drive & have no enthusiasm for life.

Poor-spirited people have no real motivation to accomplish anything

Being poor in spirit is not a suppression of your personality

**2 What “Poor in spirit” is**

Poverty of spirit is a frame of mind. This beatitude begins with the emptying of oneself – the rest speak of filling.

There are two Greek words for poverty in the New Testament.

***Penes*** – meaning to toil for daily subsistence. These are the working poor...barely making it.

Then there is the word found in Matthew 5:3, ***ptochos***. This word speaks of absolute mendicancy. They are ***completely*** dependent.

Those who are poor in spirit realize that they are helpless without God's help.

### **3 What should our attitude be toward ourselves?**

A. Paul placed no confidence in himself

2 Corinthians 4:5

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

B. Biblical examples of those poor in spirit.

Gideon - Judges 6:12-17

Moses - Exodus 4:10-12

Paul - Philippians 3:3-9; 1 Timothy 1:15

### **4 The conclusion**

Poverty of spirit is the doing away with self-reliance.

Jeremiah 10:23

1 Corinthians 3:18

For those who accept this poverty...they receive the "greatest of riches..."  
"Theirs is (not will be) the kingdom of heaven."

Everything that the kingdom has to offer is theirs for the asking...just by realizing that without God...they are nothing!