

# Matthew 5:3

by Chuck Smith

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of being 'poor in spirit' as a prerequisite for entering the kingdom of heaven.*

**Scripture:** Job 42:5, Matthew 5:3

**Topics:** "Humility", "Spiritual Poverty"

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## Description

Chuck Smith emphasizes the significance of being 'poor in spirit' as a prerequisite for entering the kingdom of heaven. He explains that true humility and recognition of our spiritual poverty are essential, contrasting this with worldly notions of self-reliance and confidence. Smith illustrates that being poor in spirit is not about financial status or false humility, but about a genuine acknowledgment of our need for God. He cites biblical examples like Job, Isaiah, and Peter to show that seeing God leads to a true understanding of ourselves. Ultimately, the path to becoming poor in spirit involves a transformative encounter with God, rather than self-effort.

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## Transcript

"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT"

I. THE LOGICAL ORDER OF THE BEATITUDES.

A. This of necessity first.

1. No one in the kingdom of heaven who is not "poor in..."

2. This is an emptying whereas others a fullness.

a. Must be emptying before filling.

b. "This Child set for the fall and rising again

of many."

c. Conviction, proceeds, conversion.

3. Forms important test for us.

a. Condemns idea that Sermon on Mount something I can do myself.

b. Just put sermon into practice and ring kingdom on earth.

c. Here is a high mountain you must scale, No power.

B. Negative: Note as some translate, "Blessed in spirit are the poor."

1. Christ not commending poverty.

2. May poor have a horrible spirit.

3. Poverty does not mean spirituality.

C. Our Lord concerned with our spirit not financial statement.

1. Our attitude towards ourselves.

2. "Pastor I just can't go on fighting this any longer, I'm whipped."

a. "Praise the Lord." Maybe now step back and let God do it.

3. Contrast with worldly teaching. Self-confidence; self-reliance; you must believe in yourself.

a. "I believe in myself. I am utterly and hopelessly lost apart from Christ; I could do nothing."

4. Education or knowledge does not make decent human beings.

5. The emphasis in church upon personality.

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "POOR IN SPIRIT?"

A. Negative.

1. Not diffident or nervous, not weak or lacking courage.

a. You are not born "poor in spirit."

2. Some attempt to display poverty of spirit.

a. Anxious to tell you how nothing or humble they are.

b. Curse of church for a time affected even gait.

3. Not a repression of personality.

B. Positive.

1. Gideon excellent example.

2. Moses.

3. David, "Who am I that thou shouldst visit me?"

4. Paul, a man endowed with natural talents and qualities, "our sufficiency is not of ourselves."

5. An absence of pride.

III. HOW DOES ONE BECOME POOR IN SPIRIT?

A. By seeing God.

1. No man sees himself truly until he first sees God.

a. Job.

1. "Which of you convinceth me of unrighteousness?"

2. "My righteousness I hold fast." (27:6.

3. "I have heard of thee, but now I have seen thee, wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." (42: 5,6.

b. Isaiah 6: 1-5.

1. "Then said I, woe is me, because I am undone because I am a man of unclean

lips...for I have seen the King, the

Lord of hosts."

c. Peter.

1. Luke 5:8, "And when Peter saw that he

fell at Jesus knees and said, "depart

from me Lord for I am a sinful man."

B. You do not begin by looking at yourself and saying, "I must

change this."

1. This is to trust in yourself that you can.

2. "But we with open face beholding the glory of the Lord,

are changed from glory to glory even by that same

spirit."

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/matthew-53/>

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