

BEATITUDES #1

In the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Christ makes a number of statements that start with the word blessed. These statements are referred to as the Beatitudes, since we get the word beatitude from the Latin word for blessed. The first of these statements is found in Matthew 5:3 and lays the foundation for those that follow and in fact for the rest of the sermon itself. This verse reads “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The word that Jesus used here for poor did not mean not being rich or just having less than the average person. It meant abject poverty. So if we are going to be poor in spirit we will strive to totally eliminate arrogance and wrongful pride and any attitude of self-will from our lives and replace those shortcomings with a proper respect for God and His word. When we humble ourselves before God and obey the gospel of Christ we enter the kingdom of heaven. Then, as Christians, we must continue to let God lead us through this life, molding and shaping us to be more like the perfect example of Jesus our Savior. By always recognizing the wisdom and power of our heavenly Father and doing His will and not our own, we will be blessed by Him with a joy and peace of mind unknown to those of this world who refuse to be poor in spirit.