

## The Beatitudes

(Lesson 4)

### Introduction:

1. We are presently studying "the Beatitudes" that Jesus presented at the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12).
2. In the Beatitudes,:
  - a. Jesus showed how people in different categories will be "blessed" [spiritually happy, well off, fortunate]
  - b. Jesus gave His requirements for receiving these blessings.
3. In this lesson we are concluding a 2-part study of the first Beatitude (Matthew 5:3: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*).

### Discussion:

- I. A BRIEF REVIEW OF OUR PREVIOUS LESSON
  - A. People who are "poor in spirit:"
    1. are aware of their spiritual needs
    2. recognize their spiritual condition
    3. depend upon God for salvation.
  - B. *Pride* is the opposite of being "poor in spirit."
  - C. Jesus illustrated both characteristics in one of His parables (Luke 18:9-14).
  - D. By examining additional Bible characters we can better understand what is involved in being "poor in spirit."
- II. BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS WITH PRIDE
  - A. Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:3-5, 15-21)
  - B. Peter (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75)
  - C. The elder brother (Luke 15:25-32)
  - D. Herod (Acts 12:20-23)
- III. BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO WERE POOR IN SPIRIT
  - A. Gideon (Judges 6:14-16; 8:22-23)
  - B. Solomon (1 Kings 3:5-13)
  - C. Peter (Luke 5:1-11)
  - D. Paul (Ephesians 3:7-8)

### Conclusion:

1. Jesus requires His followers to be "poor in spirit."
2. Those who develop this characteristic will enjoy a great blessing: *"for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*