

A. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT (:2-3)

1. This Verse Is The First Of What Are Called The Beatitudes

- a. They're called that because the first word, "Blessed" come from the Latin word "Beatus"
- b. The Greek NT uses the word *makarios* = happy
- c. When Jesus says "Blessed" He's not talking about a happy feeling; He's talking about an ongoing state/condition of well being, much like that enjoyed by God Himself

2. All Of These Beatitudes Describe The Conditions Under Which A State Of Supreme Well Being Is Experienced Through Jesus, 'Cuz Of Jesus, Thanks To Jesus

- a. Before we get into the first one, it is essential to note that these qualities that Jesus says bring that blessedness were generally considered curses by the religious people of the day
- b. In Luke 6, He contrasts "Blessed are you..." with "Woe to you..." where the "woes" form a pretty good description of the religious leaders in Jerusalem
- c. The people hearing this would have understood Jesus to be saying, "Even these are blessed" - which went completely against the grain of the common understanding of whose blessed / not

3. Now We Can Dig Into Vs. :3 - Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

- a. There are two words for poor
- b. It's the second one Jesus uses here
- c. The common understanding of the day would have been that the poor in Spirit, as Jesus calls them, wouldn't have a snowball's chance in a hot place when it comes to being blessed
- d. What He wants you to know is that Conviction has to precede Conversion
- e. People today face 1 of 2 problems re. Spiritual Poverty
- f. The poor in spirit aren' blessed 'cuz they're poor! ≠ 'cuz owning up to their spiritual poverty = the kingdom is theirs