

The Poor in Spirit and the Kingdom of Heaven  
Matthew 5:1-3  
April 19, 2020

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 5:1-3. Jesus began his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). The word “blessed” refers to an internal well-being and not merely an external feeling. Why was it important for those on the mountainside listening to Jesus to know the difference?
2. The central theme of the first beatitude (poor in spirit) is this; in order to experience the kingdom of heaven, we must first acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy. Explain what spiritual bankruptcy means and how it applies to your life.
3. We can understand the kingdom of heaven in the following way; it’s a present yet future kingdom. On the one hand, Jesus ushered in the kingdom of heaven to earth with his physical presence. On the other hand, the kingdom of God, in all its glory and splendor, will not be fully realized until sometime in the future when he returns. Share one way believers experience the kingdom of heaven now.
4. Share one way believers will experience the kingdom of heaven in all its glory sometime in the future. What kind of hope does this give us now?