

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



RICH OR POOR?

The Sermon on the Mount is a lengthy discourse given by Jesus on a hillside north of Capernaum, a fishing community on the northern edge of the Sea of Galilee. The first section, Matthew 5:3-12, is called “The Beatitudes.” Each one tells how to be “Blessed” by God. The “blessed” are those who are truly a part of God’s Kingdom; those who experience joy and hope, not because of their outward circumstances, but because of their inner spiritual relationship with God. True discipleship means faithful obedience to Jesus regardless of the cost or what the world thinks.

Rate your life in each of the following areas based on the categories given.

- A) POOR
- B) MIDDLE CLASS
- C) RICH

1. Personal/Family Income
2. Personal/Family Debt
3. Federal/State/Local Tax Burden
4. Job Satisfaction
5. Basic Necessities of Life (Food, Shelter, Clothes, Job, Transportation)
6. Luxuries (recreational activities, new or extra vehicles, closets and pantries full of food and clothes, etc)
7. Toys (trucks, motorcycles, boats, tractors, 4 wheelers, jet skis, vacation home/time share etc)
8. Family Support system (spouse, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren, etc)
9. Other relationships (church family, friends, neighbors, etc)
10. Personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ (salvation, discipleship, evangelism, Bible study, prayer, etc)

Matthew 5:3 (NLT) reads “*God blesses those who are POOR and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*”

*In your opinion, what does this verse mean?

*What kind of “poor” is being described here? Check out Matthew 11:4-6; Isaiah 61:1, 66:2.

*Are the poor in verse 3 “**blessed**” because they are poor? Yes or no?

*If not, then **why** are they blessed? What do they see as their personal need?

*Can the “**wealthy**” be blessed in the same way?

*What was the message of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1-2? What was Jesus’ message in Matthew 4:17?

*If the GOAL of this beatitude is to secure a place in the Kingdom of God and possess spiritual wealth, what does it mean to possess “*the Kingdom of Heaven*”? How does one receive the blessing?

What is involved in obtaining “wealth” or “riches” in the Kingdom? See Matthew 4:19, 6:19-21, 22:37-40; John 14:1, 15.

In the military there is a “briefing” term called the “BLUF” – Bottom Line Up Front. For Matthew 5:3 the BLUF is to get Jesus (ask Him into your heart); love God and others with all you have and all you are; trust, obey, and follow Jesus; and you will be collecting treasures in Heaven.

Pray that you can recognize both your areas of spiritual poverty and your abundant blessings from God. Pray for the courage to trust and follow Jesus in this day when it is not profitable, expedient, or politically correct. Pray for the spiritual, economical, and political salvation of America.