



Poor in Spirit– Matthew 5

January 8, 2023

As Christchurch Newport gather together for the first time in 2023, we hear God's promise to the poor in spirit; *whatever comes in 2023, the King and Kingdom belong to you.*

Listen in as Lewis Roderick reminds us of Jesus' first words from the Sermon on the Mount.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

During the message, Lewis quoted these words from *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund; "This is deeper than saying Jesus is loving or merciful or gracious. The cumulative testimony of the four Gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallenness of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move toward that sin and suffering, not away from it."

- Before hearing this message, how would you have defined 'blessedness'?
- How do you feel about being poor in spirit? Is this how you see yourself? Might the words 'upwardly mobile in spirit' apply to you?
- How do you feel about the coming year? About what are you anxious? What comfort is there from these words?
- Take a slower look at verses 4-12, and also Isaiah 61: 1-4 (thought by many to be Jesus' inspiration for the beatitudes). Allow your heart to be stirred to praise and joy at the thought of Christ's coming Kingdom.