

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

(Mt 5:3)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit...”

Jesus had just begun his public life. He invited people to a change of heart, he proclaimed that the kingdom of God was at hand, and he healed every sort of illness and infirmity.

The crowds were beginning to follow him. So he climbed up to a high place and began to teach those gathered around him, explaining his way of living life



in what is known as “the Sermon on the Mount”.

It’s the “good news” brought by Jesus, which gives joy and hope to the “least” and gives us trust in the love of God who is close to those experiencing times of trial and suffering.

This proclamation of joy and salvation is summed up entirely in the first of the eight beatitudes which assures us that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit:

What does being «poor in spirit» mean?

It means being detached from our goods and possessions, from people, and from ourselves ... putting our trust not in riches but in God’s providential love. Often we are “rich,” for example, with worries about our health, with anxiety about our relatives, with concern about a particular job, with uncertainty about how to act in a given situation, or with fear for the future...

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da un commento di Chiara Lubich  
dalla Parola di vita di nov'03  
**Parola di Vita**

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All this can block us and make us close in on ourselves, preventing us from being open to God and to our brothers and sisters. It is in these very moments, however, that the “poor in spirit” believe in the love of God, **cast all their worries upon him**, and in turn experience the Father’s love.

**When are we «poor in spirit»?**

We are “poor in spirit” when we allow ourselves to be guided by love for others.

So let’s **share and make available** to those in need, the things we have: **a smile, our time, our goods, our talents.**

Jesus assures those who live this purity of heart and poverty of spirit that the kingdom of heaven is theirs. They are **blessed, “...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.**



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The kingdom of heaven cannot be bought, nor can it be taken by force.

**It comes as a gift.**

This is why Jesus asks us **to be like children**, or like the poor, who need to receive everything from someone else, just as children do. Then the Holy Spirit, **attracted by that emptiness of love**, will be able to fill our souls because he will not find any obstacles stopping full communion.

The “poor in spirit” have everything because they have kept nothing for themselves: **they are poor of themselves and rich in God.**

Here too, the words of the Gospel apply: “Give and it will be given to you”. We give what we have and we are given **nothing less than the kingdom of heaven.**