

Not Good Enough – Matthew 5:3

Introduction

- The Beatitudes are not **commands**, but **declarations** of blessing.
 - The Big Question: Why should God **accept** you? (Hebrews 9:27)
 - Key Thought: The world says, “Prove yourself.” Jesus says, “You are **not** enough.”
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Bankrupt Before God

- Greek *ptōchos* = utterly **destitute**, a **beggar** (Luke 16:20; Rev. 3:17).
 - *Pneuma* = the inner **man**, the soul.
 - Poor in spirit = sinner who knows he cannot survive without **outside** help.
 - It is **poverty** of the soul — total spiritual **bankruptcy**.
 - **Cross Reference**: Psalm 34:18 – “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”
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Why We’re Not Enough

- God’s standard is **holiness** (Lev. 11:44; 1 Pet. 1:16).
- Romans 3:23 – all have **sinned**.
- James 2:10 – one sin makes us guilty of **all**.
- 1 John 1:8 – If we say we have no sin, we **deceive** ourselves.
- Isaiah 64:6 – “All our righteous deeds are like **filthy** rags.”

- Quote: “We **underestimate** our sins and **overestimate** our works.”
 - **Key Point:** Our “resumes” of righteousness are worthless before a holy God.
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God’s Kingdom for the Broken

- To belong to the kingdom is to belong to **God**.
 - “Theirs is the kingdom” – present **reality** & future **hope** (*Already/Not Yet*, Rom. 14:17; Rev. 21:1–4).
 - The kingdom is not for those who are “**good** enough.”
 - It’s for those who know they’re not and run to **Jesus**.
 - In a world that says bring your best, the Christian brings **Christ**.
 - **Cross Reference:** Philippians 3:8 – Paul counts all things as **loss** compared to Christ.
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Living Poor in Spirit

- To be poor in spirit grants both **entry** into the kingdom and strength for our daily **walk**.
 - Colossians 2:6 – “As you received Christ... so **walk** in Him.”
 - Daily dependence: “Nothing in my **hand** I bring, simply to the **cross** I cling.”
 - Sanctification flows from the same **grace** that saves — dependence fuels **growth**.
 - **Key Point:** Spiritual bankruptcy doesn’t disqualify you — it **qualifies** you.
 - **Cross Reference:** Psalm 51:17 – “A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not **despise**.”
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Reflection & Response

1. What are you still trying to **prove** to God or others?
2. Where do you need to confess your **weakness** and run to the **cross**?
3. Do you rest more in your **performance** or in Christ's **finished** work?
4. What do you bring to God: your **works**, or your **heart**? (Luke 18:9–14)