

Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 5:3, 1 Samuel 16:6-13

Where Jesus is there is blessing. It's basic to our new life in him. So we're exploring all the ways he blesses us, using his blessings in the gospels.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- It tops the list of Jesus' famous "Beatitudes" (from the Latin for blessed, *beatus*): "Blessed are the poor in spirit." "Blessed" is one of those words we hear, but are hard pressed to define. How would you define it?
- Who do we usually see as "blessed" in life? How is Jesus' list of the blessed different?
- What do you suppose Jesus means by "poor in spirit"? Does it have to do with possessions? Accomplishments? Talents? Self image? Can you choose to be poor in spirit?
- How does the story of Samuel choosing David (1 Samuel 16) illustrate how God blesses the poor in spirit?
- The blessing Jesus gives the poor in spirit is the Kingdom of heaven. What comes with that?
- Describe someone you've known who could be seen as poor in spirit in the world's eyes, but rich in the things of the Kingdom of heaven.

Next Sunday we will focus upon Matthew 5:4.