





## *Despair at Christmas*

**Last week I made a point to remind you not everybody that heard about the birth of Christ found it to be good news**

***Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.***

***Matthew 2:17-18***





# Finding Faith in Christmas

*The Bells Still Ring for  
All Who Truly Believe*





## *Despair at Christmas*

**This is an important sermon because many people have bad memories that are associated with this time of year**

**Christmas presents are a myth as you are struggling to just to meet basic needs**

**You don't see hope in relationships because you are trapped in loneliness**

**Happiness, it is a foreign concept because you are dealing with depression**







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A hand holds a gold-colored metal tray with intricate designs. The tray features a central floral emblem, a small plaque with the number '000577135', and a decorative border. The word 'Trust' is written in a large, red, stylized font with a black outline, overlaid on the tray. The background is dark and out of focus.

**Trust**



## *The Poor in Spirit*

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

***Matthew 5:3***







## *The Poor in Scripture*

***The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.***

**Physical poverty is not mentioned in scripture until Exodus 23**

***Matthew 11:5***

**When God handed out the laws for living in the land there were many that dealt with compassion toward the poor**







## *The Poor in Scripture*

**The Psalms use the images of poverty 21 times as imagery to help us understand us and God**

**Solomon lays out guidelines for helping the poor in 19 different chapters in Proverbs**

**Here in Matthew 11 the church is reminded the "good news" is not just for those with financial means**





## *The Poor in Spirit*

**And while the early church gave priority to meeting the physical needs of the less fortunate, as you read through the writings of Paul, and James you see the church had to be reminded over and over**

**not to forget  
the physically poor**







## *Who are the poor in Spirit*

**Blessed speaks of our inner state of well-being, Blessedness comes from unhindered fellowship with God the Father through our Lord Jesus. To be blessed is to experience the full impact of God's presence in our lives now and for all eternity.**





*Blessed are...*

**People that take a stand for him (v. 11-12)**

**People that stand for right living (v. 10)**

**People that seek peace not conflict (v. 9)**

**People that are pure in motives (v. 8)**

**People that are willing to show mercy (v. 7)**







*Blessed are...*

**People that have a desire to learn (v. 6)**

**People that are not self-serving  
or self-seeking -- Meek (v. 5)**

**People that are broken hearted over they sin and  
separation (v. 4)**

**At the top of or in the case the first blessed  
is the building block of poor in Spirit**





## *Poor in Spirit*

**Often, we associate it with humility, but this is much deeper**

**In Jesus' times the physically poor were the people that could not meet their basic needs**

**To be spiritually poor means you are aware you are unable to meet your spiritual need**







## *Poor in Spirit*

**Therefore, you must depend on, rely on  
and count on somebody to meet it for you**

# *Jesus*





# *The Inheritance*

**The kingdom of God (An everlasting relationship)**

**Comfort for your soul**

**A relationship for today in our physical life**

**A fulfilled life**

**The Mercy of God**

**The Ability to see God**

**To be adopted by God**

**The kingdom of God**







## *The Inheritance*

**The ability to rejoice in life's trials knowing never will you be alone**





## *Do you trust Jesus to get you "home"*

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”***

***John 14:1-4***





*Do you trust Jesus to get you "home"*

**Their trust journey was just about to start,  
and their hearts would see trouble**

**Jesus' encouragement was to keep your eyes on the  
conductor he knows where he is going**

**Trust the tracks he laid with his life they will  
lead the way**

**And at the end of the journey, he will  
be there for you**





# *Do you trust Jesus to get you "home"*

***For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.***



***1 Timothy 4:8-10***



# Praying to Keep Christ in Christmas

