



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





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



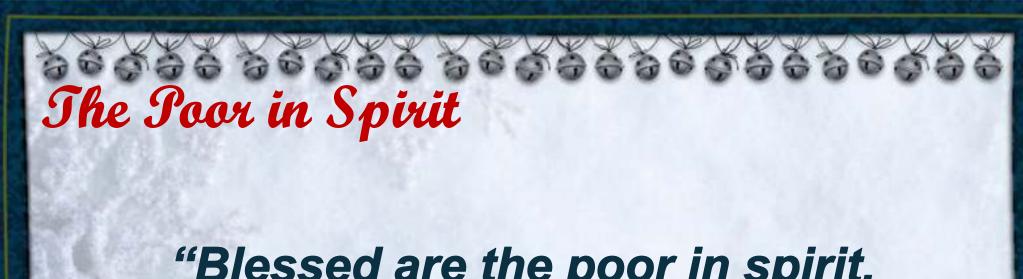
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"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."



## 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



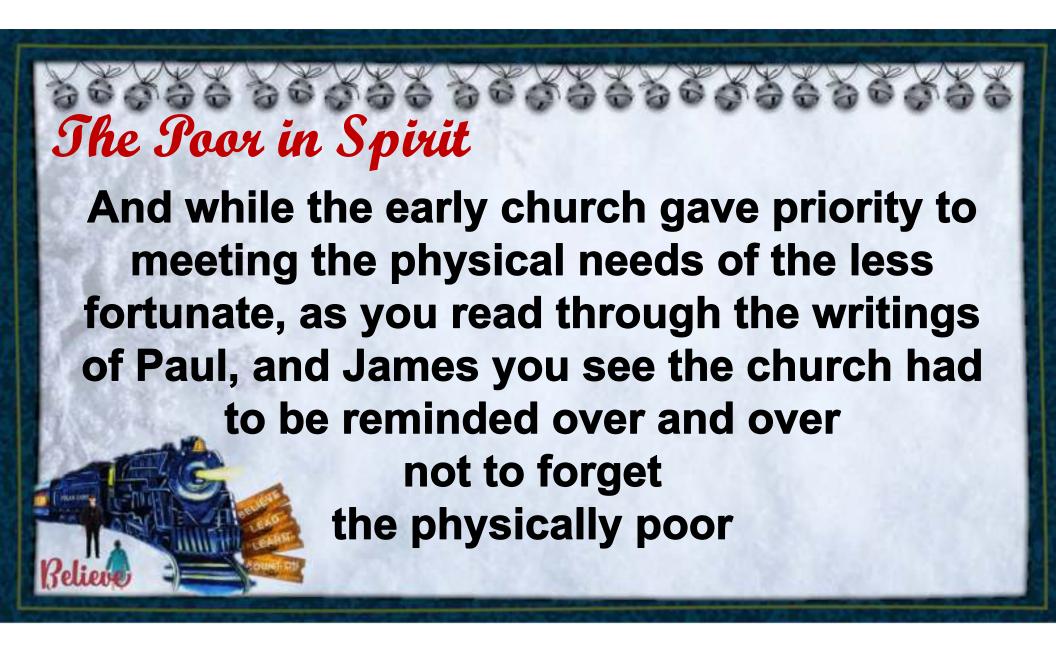
When God handed out the laws for living in the land there were many that dealt with compassion toward the poor



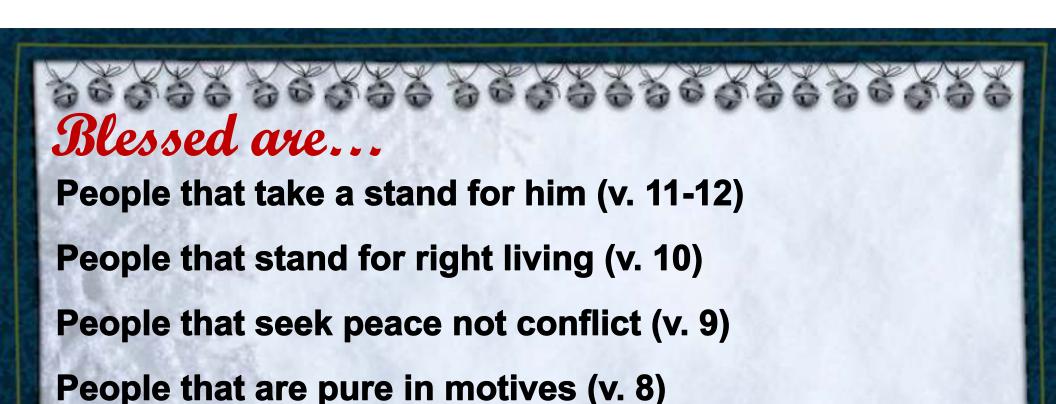
The Psalms use the images of poverty 21 times as imagery to help us understand us and God

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







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



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



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







## 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

