

BLESSED ARE THE POOR

Luke 6:20 ... "...Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

This verse is part of the teachings of Jesus that we call the Beatitudes from his sermon on the mount. The word "beatitude," means supreme blessing or happiness. So, Jesus' purpose in reciting these promises is to assure us that despite hardships, sufferings, sadness, and other difficulties we face in life, our future will be glorious in heaven if we trust God in this life. Now, I must also point out that this list of blessings is also included in the gospel of Matthew, with an interesting change. In Matthew 5:3, he quotes Jesus as saying "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

We are not sure why Luke and Matthew recorded Jesus' words differently, but we must remember that this was before it was even common to have paper and pencil. The apostles probably did not sit down and write their records of Jesus' ministry until several decades after Jesus returned to heaven. So, given the very close accounts of that ministry in the four gospels, we find it amazing that they are so similar and quote Jesus so consistently.

The fact remains that both verses (Luke 6:20 and Matthew 5:3) are correct. If Luke's version applies to believers who are poor economically, we know that their rewards and supreme blessings await them in heaven. If Matthew's version, which applies spiritual terms to the quote, applies to believers who suffer from satan's relentless temptations and attacks, they, too, will receive their reward in heaven for keeping the faith.

One or both of these verses applies to you and I. We are all poor in spirit, beat down by satan's untiring assaults, but still trusting in God and awaiting our reward in heaven. You may also be poor economically, which is also difficult, but holds just as much promise for your future.

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