

Sermon: The poor in spirit

What is “poor in spirit”?

Matthew 5:1-3

The word “poor” means to _____.

“Poor in spirit” must mean _____.

Jesus warns us against _____.

Luke 14:7-11

The temptation to feel important

Self-importance is a _____.

What are the blessings of spiritual humility?

Humility recognizes its _____.

Pride divides; _____.

Humility is _____.

The humble find _____.

Psalm 8:1-9

Growth group study: The poor in spirit

Getting to know you

1. Last Sunday's sermon was on the poor in spirit. Is there anything about the sermon that you would like to discuss in your growth group?
2. When was a time when you felt very good about yourself? Why did you feel that at that time in particular?

Going deeper

3. Read Isaiah 57:15. According to this passage, what is necessary to have God live with you?
4. What are the signs of a person who is “lowly and contrite in spirit”?

5. Read James 4:1-6. Verse 6 shows that this is all about humility and pride. According to this passage, what does pride produce and what does humility produce? Have you seen this in your own life or the life of others?
6. Read James 4:7-10. What steps can you take to live a more blessed life of humility?

Putting it into practice

7. In the sermon, we read an online article by Nathan Foster about how he tried to “practice irrelevancy.” Try this week to see in all of your interpersonal interactions whether you are trying to impress others. Resolve to try to lessen these actions and spend more of your effort to bless and lift up others.