



☀ Read (Luke 4:18) and describe the importance of Jesus Isaiah 61:1 quote. Also look at (Ps. 34:18) for help answering this question.

☀ Kent Hughes once wrote, “The more spiritually mature we become, the more profound will be our sense of poverty.” Do you agree or disagree with that statement and why?

**D.A. Carson wrote, “Poverty of spirit is not a man’s confession that his is ontologically insignificant, or personally without value, for such would be untrue; it is, rather, a confession that he is sinful and rebellious and utterly without moral virtues adequate to commend him to God. From within such a framework, poverty of spirit becomes a general confession of a man’s need for God, a humble admission of impotence without him.”** What reflections do you have after reading that? Does that describe your heart before the Lord?

☀ How are self-righteousness, moral self-esteem, and personal vainglory enemies of being poor in spirit? Where are such things seen in cultural trends today or even in your own life?

☀ Poverty of spirit may end in a Gideon vanquishing the enemy hosts; but it begins with a Gideon who first affirms he is incapable of the task and who insists that if the Lord does not go with him he would much rather to stay home and thresh grain. Poverty of Spirit is exemplified by the guilty publican in the corner of the Temple crying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” Can you think of any other verses or examples of spiritual poverty?

**Those who come to Christ poor in spirit, never leave the same way.** What are some practical ways you can cultivate a spirit of poverty in your own life? After each suggestion, read the associated text and write down a personal application statement.

☀ Get lost in the wonder of Christ. Behold your Savior and long to be like him (2Cor. 3:18)

☀ Get weaned from yourself. Glorify God while crucifying self (Gal. 2:20)

☀ Spend time in prayer practicing the art of begging – cry out longer and louder (Mark 10:46-52)

☀ Cast off self-sufficiency and give praise and thanks to God (Psalm 100:3-4).