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BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT
(Matthew 5:3)

Jesus seeing the crowds following, those with various diseases sicknesses and demon possessed, goes up on the mountain in Matthew Chapter 5 and takes his seat as a teacher of authority and begins to speak a word that any would neglect to their own peril.

He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Blessed being the state in which God's will is done in life. The idea of poverty of spirit is the great need of not only those people following him then, but of us today. "Poor in spirit" is humility, an emptying of self or less of self -- getting "ME" out of the way so God can work!

Later on, Jesus enlarges on the idea when he tells his disciples in Matthew 16:24-26, that anyone who follows him must deny self, or forget self, and take up the commitment of the gospel even to the point of death. In I Peter 5:6, Peter many years later writes, "Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast ALL your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." If one would look back at Peter's life and his testing or his denial of Christ, we get a picture of humility or poverty of self. Peter was broken that day he denied Christ. Yet here we see the transformed writer saying to all who suffer -- "Humble yourself to God that He may lift you up. "

So to apply, when we are facing threats like Covid, political unrest, the distresses of the our world around us, rather than an uprising or revolt, we should HUMBLE ourselves, be POOR in spirit and let God do his work. Referring to the introduction in conclusion: he speaks a word that any would neglect to their own peril. The beatitudes and the teachings are of utmost importance in living a life that is surrendered to God.

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