

A solution of the heart for our racial problems. Poverty of spirit. There is no “other”.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Synopsis: This is an edited excerpt about poverty of spirit from a longer sermon that, among other things, talked about how to apply the Beatitudes to the current problems we are having with racial unrest in our country. It occurs at approximately 15:14 in the homily: “[The Saints achieved profound peace in an unpeaceful world](http://www.orthodox.net/sermons/pen-sun-02_2020+saints-of-russia+poverty-of-spirit-and-mourning_mat4-25-5-12.mp3)” - http://www.orthodox.net/sermons/pen-sun-02_2020+saints-of-russia+poverty-of-spirit-and-mourning_mat4-25-5-12.mp3

This file: http://www.orthodox.net/sermons/misc_2020+personal-solution-for-our-violent-times+poverty-of-spirit-and-there-is-no-other.doc

http://www.orthodox.net/sermons/misc_2020+personal-solution-for-our-violent-times+poverty-of-spirit-and-there-is-no-other.pdf

Audio: (just over 1:30) http://www.orthodox.net/sermons/misc_2020+personal-solution-for-our-violent-times+poverty-of-spirit-and-there-is-no-other.mp3

Poverty of spirit is being aware of how little we are, and how big God is and having a deep abiding desire to do everything for the sake of God.

You must cultivate this. This is why I tell you over and over again: you must read the Gospels, you must read the Psalter and say your prayers, and say the Jesus prayer, and pray for others.

These are things that are very necessary for you to be able to have poverty of spirit. You could do all those things and still be a terrible person, if you're not aware of who you are and who God is - aware every moment of this.

If we were aware that people are made in the image of God, then there wouldn't be violence. We have seen so much violence in our country, insane violence, so many people being killed. We are seeing insane like policeman not being served in certain restaurants and people being beaten on buses because of the color of their skin. It could be any color, black or white or brown, only because a stranger looks different or comes from a different part of town. There's been shootings, and stabbings, there's all this crazy insanity, because people are not poor in spirit. If they're not poor in spirit, then they judge someone else and that person is the **other**.

Did you know: there is no **other**? There's no other in this world we are all the same. We are all human beings made in the image of God. If that was understood even a small amount, we wouldn't have the rioting, the killing, the hatred, the rhetoric and the push to take away personal freedom, which I think is coming, or actually, it has arrived, it just has not been fully expressed.