

You and the Poor

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- ✠ Everything we have is a free gift from God.
- ✠ To learn to have compassionate toward our brothers the poor.

Key verses

*“Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble”
(Ps 41:1).*

*“Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard”
(Proverbs 21:13)*

“Remember the prisoners as if chained with them, those who are mistreated, since you yourselves are in the body also” (Heb 13:3)

Who are the poor?

By definition the poor are people who have little or no money, goods, or other means of support themselves. They may be dependent upon charity or public support. The poor also includes those who are homeless, hungry, those who weep, the needy, the unemployed, the sick, and the outcast, the persecuted. They are in the midst of life's sorrows and challenges. The poor also includes those people, regardless of their financial status, who know their need of God.

How do these people become poor?

- ❖ Social or Economic Conditions – issues within a country may have increased the number of unemployed people. Example is the movie **Mother Theresa in India** where there are a large number of poor people because of the economic conditions and over population.
- ❖ Family Problems – causing unhappiness, sadness, in extreme circumstances even become an outcast from the family.
- ❖ Addiction –has some relation to family problems, financially struggling to support the addiction, i.e. alcohol, drugs, gambling.
- ❖ No spiritual life – no direction in life without the Holy Spirit.

God's view of the poor

(Read the passage Luke 6:20-23)

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. **6:21** Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. **6:22** Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. **6:23** Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets

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In this passage our Lord Jesus was elevating the status of people who are struggling in life on earth. These are the poor who will be rewarded in Heaven. They are called Blessed. They are favored in God's eyes. Their earthly struggle will be rewarded with His Blessing. The poor are often forgotten and neglected by society. Not in God's eyes. In this passage it proves that they will be raised above others.

Our Responsibility (Read the passage Luke 6:24-26)

6:24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. **6:25** Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. **6:26** Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

In this passage our Lord Jesus has said that those who may have it easy now may suffer later. It does not mean we cannot have a good life. It means **we should never forget those who are struggling in life**. Accept what good God has given us and **be thankful**. All things that you have in life that brings you comfort, we must share with those who do not have these.

Read 2 passages

Matthew 22:36-40

22:37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with your entire mind.' **22:38** This is the first and great commandment. **22:39** And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **22:40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Romans 13:8-10

13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. **13:9** For the commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **13:10** Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Love is stressed as the way to care for your neighbor who includes the poor. Show them love through:

1. Serve those who are under privileged, (talk about the types of service)
2. Give to those in need, i.e. financially and emotionally

By showing the poor love we have fulfilled the commandment from Jesus.

Imagine Jesus in those you serve. "I thirst". These are the words Jesus said on the cross. In the movie Mother Therese, she saw the pain and struggle of Jesus on those who were poor. We too must have this in our mind when we serve.

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Be humble with your love and giving to the poor

Read passage **Matthew 6:1-4**

6:1 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **6:2** Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. **6:3** But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **6:4** that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Serve those who are poor with humility. This is pleasing to God.

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.