



Remember the Poor

One of the greatest messages, both from Jesus Christ and also the apostles, was to remember the poor by doing one thing – preach unto them the gospel. This was the one greatest, single, most powerful act done for the poor. This wasn't just an Old Testament thing. It was also a Christian thing done throughout the New Testament first century Church period.

(Gal 2:1-2) Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. {2} And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but



privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Galatians tells that Paul ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ unto the Gentiles. Even so many years later, he still had to be watchful for his life. There were many who still hated the Gentiles and would not welcome them into Christianity.

(Gal 2:4) And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily

to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

This spoken Gospel brings, at a minimum, liberty to all who hear. But even today, many would not welcome such a wonderful gift. That is such a sad thing.

Wouldn't it be great if everyone received the Gospel of Jesus Christ and walked in such great liberty?

(Gal 2:5) To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

You literally have to ignore people like this. If they will

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not receive the gospel of Jesus Christ, the truth of the gospel, you give them no place in your life at all.

(Gal 2:7-10) But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; {8} (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) {9} And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. {10} Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Eventually, everyone realized that both Peter and Paul had received both gospels, of the uncircumcision and circumcision. This was a major turning point in their lives. Why? Because *the curse of poverty could now be lifted – across the world!* Jesus started this during his ministry if you remember.

(Luke 4:18-19) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Preaching the gospel is one of the most liberating things that you could ever do.

(James 2:5-8) Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not

God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? {6} But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? {7} Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? {8} If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Loving your neighbor has all to do with preaching to them, the poor, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Literally, the words of God spoken when you do this lifts the oppressive veil of poverty in such a miraculous way that nothing man has ever done or ever will do could diminish it. The spoken Word of God regarding Jesus Christ will free people from the curse of poverty. Just the spoken Word! Imagine coating men's

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minds and hearts with a balm of deliverance and protection just by speaking to them God's Word? It is so wonderful.

These blessings come to those who are not offended by Christ.

(Mat 11:4-6) Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: {5} The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. {6} And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

This is not a matter of a certificate, certification, degrees or learning. This is a matter of not being offended. Let's look at Matthew 19 to learn why some rich folks have such a hard time receiving God's blessings.

(Mat 19:21-22) Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. {22} But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Why is it so hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven? Because he won't follow Christ. *In order to follow Christ, man must do something so simple and easy, yet, to some, something unbearably difficult.*

(Mat 19:23-24) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. {24} And again I say unto you,

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

In order to follow Christ, he must give up that in which he trusts, and most simply won't do that. Of course, the easiest way to stop trusting in material things is to not have them. It is not God's will that we get rid of our material things. On the contrary, it IS God's will that we trust in Him. You do what you have to do to transfer trust from worldly things to God. That is a personal matter. Most people don't need to sell all that they have. But some do. If you trust in Him, you trust in Him. Go then and enjoy your possessions. After all, God is your provider and He is He who provided them to you. Ultimately, it is a matter of hearing and not being offended. How simple this becomes when we understand how God designed

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it.

We speak, and they listen. That's all there is to it! *You don't have to coheres, force, convince, bribe, extort, demand, scream at, writhe in pain, cry, plead, have fits of fury, expose guilt, condemn, or otherwise abuse you or them to get them to believe.* All you have to do is speak. All they have to do is listen. This starts the process. After this, God is responsible for giving the increase!

To the man who came running to Jesus, asking him what he had to do to inherit eternal life:

(Mark 10:21-31) Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou

shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. {22} And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

He trusted in his possessions. Of course he would since he had never been introduced to something better.

{23} And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

{24} And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! {25} It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. {26} And they were

astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

These guys were really worried. They thought that God would never be able to increase his family because they all knew how VERY much people trusted in riches and material wealth. *Fortunately, for us, God made it very difficult to trust in worldly things. After all, they always seem to disappear. Food rots after some time, money is spent, and materials decay.*

{27} And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

The context is trusting in riches vs. trusting in God. With men,

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and their trust in riches, it is impossible to inherit eternal life. With God, and trusting in God, it is possible to inherit eternal life. At this point in their walks, they had yet to build a great trust in God. They saw before them ominous tasks of change, not only for themselves, but also for the people.

{28} Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. {29} And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, {30} But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Jesus knew his responsibility – to preach God's Word of deliverance to the world. It was and still is this same Word that will annihilate poverty and cause a well-spring of deliverance within every man's soul.

(Luke 4:19) To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

This is STILL acceptable unto God.

(Luke 7:23) And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Remember the poor. Go and receive God's promises of inheritance, wealth, family, land, houses – receive it an hundredfold now in this time. Claim what is rightfully yours. Refuse those who deny and contradict this gospel. And, oh, by the way, enjoy your eternal life as well!

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown