

ABATT
The Poor
Christian Life Assembly
Jim Hoffman

1

The Poor

**James 1:9 Believers who are poor
have something to boast about,
for God has honored them.**



2

The Poor

**James 1:10 And those who are
rich should boast that God has
humbled them. NLT**



3

The Poor

- Galatians 2:10 They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do. NASB



4

4

The Poor

- Who are the poor?**
 - Anyone who has fewer resources than you do at their point of need.
- What is our responsibility to the poor?**



Counseling

5

Who Are The Poor?



Didn't make it onto the yearly roll call of the mega-wealthy? Now's your chance to find out where you actually sit in comparison to the rest of the world.

INCOME **WEALTH**

Which one should I choose?

Select location: _____

Enter annual net income: _____

Show my results

6

6

The Poor

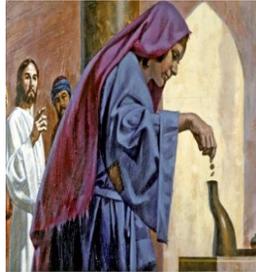
- Prov 14:31 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him. NLT
- There is a blessing that comes with helping the poor – part of the blessing is that what we do to help the poor honors God.
- And there is also condemnation for oppressing the poor.

7

7

The Widow's Mites

- Mark 12:38 Jesus also taught: "Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. 39 And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. 40 Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished." NLT



8

8

The Poor

- Deut 15:7 "But if there are any poor Israelites in your towns when you arrive in the land the Lord your God is giving you, **do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them.** 8 Instead, **be generous and lend them whatever they need.** 9 Do not be mean-spirited and refuse someone a loan because the year for canceling debts is close at hand. If you refuse to make the loan and the needy person cries out to the Lord, you will be considered guilty of sin. 10 **Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.** 11 There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need. NLT

9

9

The Poor

- Please catch at least this much from the Deuteronomy 15 text –
- “Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do. There will always be some in the land who are poor.”
- Do you see it? God blesses those who are generous to the poor, and there will always be plenty of poor to give to. (implied source of constant blessing)

10

10

The Poor

- I cannot help myself – let me say that again in another way.
- God promises to bless the one who gives to the poor and then assures us there would a never-ending supply of poor people.
- Which means we have a never-ending means of accessing the blessing of God!

11

11

The Poor

- James 1:9 Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. NLT
- If you recall how Jesus spoke in the beatitudes, we can detect an echo of that sort of language in what His now believing brother writes.

12

12

The Poor

- In the “Beatitudes” Jesus seemed to speak in riddles when He said things like, “blessed are those who mourn and those who are persecuted”.
- He was pointing to a whole new way of assigning value to life’s situations.
- When life is cast against the backdrop of eternity sometimes things change.

13

13

The Poor

- When James writes that the poor should boast in their high position and the rich should boast in being humbled, he was speaking like Jesus.
- He was not arguing that the poor in the world would suddenly be honored here and now - clearly, they are not.
- He was not saying that the rich will embrace being humbled here and now – clearly, they do not.

14

14

The Poor

- What James was doing was juxtaposing what the world values versus what God values.
- And I should add this to the equation at this point – not all poor will be elevated in eternity, and not all rich will embrace humiliation in eternity.
- Only those whose hearts are right with God.

15

15

The Poor

- But for those poor who know Christ – they will be elevated to a standard of living that they never have had in this life.
- And for the rich – they will be lifted out of their pride and freed from the bondage that Frank Sinatra described as “I did it my way”.
- So whether we are poor or rich in this life becomes irrelevant in eternity.

16

16

The Poor

- James then gives even more perspective for the rich in this world – “They will fade away like a little flower in the field. 11 The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.”
- All that the world values – fortunes, houses, accomplishments, fame, and beauty will all be gone the day we die.
- Why, why do we measure success by all the wrong standards?

17

17

The Poor

- How should a Christian respond to beggars and panhandlers?
 - Give and let the receiver make choices – their choices are not on you.
 - Support rescue missions and homeless shelters.
 - Carry gift cards to McDonalds.

18

18

The Poor

- Psalm 41:1 Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble. 2 The Lord protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies. 3 The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health. NLT
- I am not certain that the above are promises of God, but I am certain these are David's observations about how life usually works.

19

19

The Poor

So how can we help?

20

20

The Poor

- No pressure here – what I am suggesting is totally voluntary as I know that many of you already give generously to help those in need.
- I would like to designate the 1st Sunday of every month as "Threads Sunday" for us.
- Your ticket to class on the 1st Sunday each month is a jar of peanut butter, a can or beans, or a box of diapers.

21

21



Questions

22

22
