

STEPPING UP AND STEPPING OUT



LEARNING A NEW MINDSET ON BENEVOLENCE

OPENING QUESTION:

Why did Jesus talk about the poor so much?
How did the disciples respond to Jesus in these conversations?

MAIN POINTS:

⇒ **HIS VIEW WAS PERSONAL:**

Jesus was poor himself- he understood the poor.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” *Luke 9:58*

POINT: How can we better understand personally the mindset of our poor neighbors so we can serve them better?

⇒ **HIS VIEW WAS PERSISTENT:**

Jesus saw what was happening to the poor and acted.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed” *(Luke 4:18)*.

POINT: How much should we as a church get involved with the issues of our poor neighbors? How should we act in our community?

SESSION 1:

THE VIEW OF JESUS ON THE POOR

PERSONAL NOTES:

STEPPING UP AND STEPPING OUT



LEARNING A NEW MINDSET ON BENEVOLENCE

⇒ HIS VIEW WAS PERSUASIVE:

Jesus encouraged others to remember the poor.

“All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.” (Gal. 2:10)

“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Rom. 12:13).

“Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?” (James 2:5).

POINT: As we see these verses from writers that were profoundly influenced by Jesus, what would our thoughts be if they were written out about the poor? How does grace and truth fit in?

CLOSING:

Share the final thoughts in the box to the right. More info on the source can be found at the website listed at the end.

Family Discussion/Question for the Road:

Since Jesus felt this way about the poor, why is our culture not as moved to help the poor in the same way?

Discuss ways in your family how you can become more aware of the poor around you, and have the attitude of grace and truth in your own family mindset about our poor neighbors.

SESSION 1:

THE VIEW OF JESUS ON THE POOR

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Jesus equated serving or neglecting the poor with serving or neglecting God. (Matt. 25:40,45)

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

Redemption for the poor was part of God’s plan for restoration through the Messiah. (Matt. 11)

“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” (Matthew 11:4-6).

Jesus’ concern for the poor goes beyond their physical needs. (Luke 8:43-48)

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

Jesus says the poor and other social outcasts are invited to the kingdom of God. (Luke 14:12-14)

‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

Jesus indicates that the values of the world will be turned upside down in his kingdom. (Luke 16)

“Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.” (Luke 16:25, NIV)

Source: www.jesusfilm.org/blog/jesus-cares-for-poor/

STEPPING UP AND STEPPING OUT



LEARNING A NEW MINDSET ON BENEVOLENCE

SESSION 1:

EXTRA MATERIAL

Here is some supplemental online material on the view of Jesus and the poor:

- **When Helping Hurts, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert**
- **<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-poor-in-the-gospels-and-the-good-news-proclaimed-to-them/>**
- **<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/how-did-jesus-view-wealth-and-poverty.html>**
- **<https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-did-jesus-teach-about-the-poor/>**
- **<https://endingpovertytogether.org/jesus-in-the-face-of-the-poor/>**
- **<https://cfc.sebts.edu/faith-and-economics/jesus-rich-poor-matter/>**
- **<https://cfc.sebts.edu/faith-and-economics/what-did-jesus-really-teach-about-wealth-and-poverty/>**

STEPPING UP AND STEPPING OUT



LEARNING A NEW MINDSET ON BENEVOLENCE

SESSION 1:

LIFE GROUPS

Taking sides is an unsettling trend in our country these days. Our political affiliations and where we stand on issues has never been so divisive.

The church has had its own struggle with sides — for centuries — over the way to live out faith. Should we be more focused on saving souls or meeting people’s physical needs?

This is a false dichotomy, because Jesus did both. Jesus cared deeply about the poor and the downtrodden, demonstrating his compassion in tangible ways: giving sight to the blind, touching the leper, healing the sick. But he also preached the good news of God’s love and salvation.

Being on Jesus’ side means doing it all. He instructed his followers to change the world in his name by embracing two essential commands: the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We are to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves (**Matthew 22:37-39**), and we are to go and make disciples of others who will do the same (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

It’s tempting to focus mainly on the Great Commission, as if evangelism is our only responsibility. But loving our neighbor is also critically important to Jesus.

Of all the times he spoke of it, none is more compelling than the passage in Matthew 25 when Jesus describes the actions of those welcomed into his Father’s kingdom: *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me ... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”* (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

Discuss how we, as a Life Group, can show grace and truth to our neighbors who are materially poor and be more involved in this community.

<https://www.worldvision.org/christian-faith-news-stories/matthew-25-jesus-side-poor#:~:text=Jesus%20cared%20deeply%20about%20the,side%20means%20doing%20it%20all.>