

## The Poor #4

AT's Snacks-- December 14, 2025

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### Monday:

The worst kind of poverty, the worst state of being poor, is those who are spiritually poor. Jesus said, *"I stand at the door and knock. If anybody opens the door, I'll come in"*. You don't even have to ask about salvation. It's already offered to you. It's a gift. Just accept it. You're saved by faith.

You've been trained to help, to pray with someone to receive Jesus. If God's in it, you can't hardly mess it up. You have more than you think you have.

I don't use the word "backslidden", or "backslide", too much, but there are those who once experienced an excitement about the Lord, but who have, for whatever reason, have backslidden back into a state where they're not experiencing the goodness, blessings or enjoying what God is doing today.

And then there's those that are over-religious. They're so religious that they're not very helpful to people who don't know Jesus.

In Revelations chapter 2-3, there are seven letters to churches which includes the loveless church, the persecuted church, the compromising church, the corrupt church, the dead church, the faithful church and the lukewarm church. **The most common of these is the lukewarm church.**

The problem with the church today is that a lot of people are lukewarm, which is one that is the hardest to move off high center. Lukewarm Christianity is a rampant epidemic in the American church. They are believers who are disengaged in what God is doing today.

### Tuesday:

These churches/individuals have experienced some that the kingdom offers, but have stopped in their growth, which has stalled out their zeal for the things of God. **Please, please, please take the time to read Romans 1:16-32. This scripture definitely helps to set the tone for the rest of this message.**

People who are lukewarm have experienced some of the goodness of God, but have slipped back. They've lost their hunger and zeal for God, and they are just existing in the kingdom, not enjoying the fruit of the kingdom, nor are they fruitful in the things that they do with their life.

Romans 1:21 says, *"Although they knew God, they didn't glorify Him as God, nor were thankful to Him, but became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools"*.

It's easy to settle into a place of comfort where nothing spiritually significant was happening in them whatsoever. They weren't willing to listen to what the Holy Spirit was saying, so they settled into complacency.

**Please take the time to read Revelation 3:14-22.**

Lukewarm Christianity is repulsive to Jesus to the degree that Jesus wants to throw them up. So those who are lukewarm are stagnant in their relationship with the Lord. They're self sufficient, not dependent. They're content in a lot of lifeless, spiritual mediocrity and are disengaged from the life the kingdom offers in favor of comfort.

**Wednesday:**

They're oblivious, unresponsive to the Holy Spirit, and have no interaction with the Father. They don't recognize what is God and what's just normal, no excitement, no zeal, no gauge for what God is actually doing.

They're doing nothing. They're relaxed. They're spiritually lazy. They are apathetic and lackadaisical. They've been lulled to sleep by Bible Belt Christianity. The greatest challenge I have is bumping up against Bible Belt mentality, bumping up against dead, lifeless, no-relationship-with-God kind of Christianity, which is alive and well in the Bible Belt.

It's repulsive to Jesus because it is contagious. It is a disease of the church. One of the reasons that people in the Bible Belt think the church is working so well is because they've never seen or experienced the real thing.

It's hard to tell the lukewarm church from the world. It's hard to tell where the lines are. It shouldn't be our goal as the church to be politically correct. The enemy loves the lukewarm church. He loves for people to go to church, but never do anything with it.

The lukewarm church has become irrelevant, making absolutely no difference in society. It's a misrepresentation of who God really is to the world. *"It has a form of godliness, but denies the power thereof"*. It tends to be a social club with little to no relevance to all the problems and negativity the world throws at us.

We should give an accurate representation of who God is, through mine and your relationship with God, as you spend time with Him, as you interact with Him. As you do this, you become like Him. He's conforming you into His image.

**Thursday:**

The church, which should be a light, a beacon for the world, a safe place for the lost, for those who are hurting and a place for those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

**To be hot** would be someone who's zealous for the things of God, relational with Him, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, is walking in step with the Father and is getting their marching directions for their life.

**To be cold** are those who are going through the motions, but they've never been exposed to the relational aspect of Christianity. Someone who's active and wanting to do right, but is trapped in dead, lifeless, traditional, religious tradition kind of thinking. They are void of an encounter with the Father.

If this is you, you need an encounter which can happen anytime you want it to. It's in your court. If you want an encounter with God, ask Him for one.

So, it's not, "*Well, you know, I hope He has an encounter with me one of these days*". Come on!!! That's why the church is stuck waiting for God to do something. They are waiting for Him to move when God is waiting for the people to move.

### **Friday:**

The Bible is put together in such a way to see what God does with people-plain, old simple people like us. You think these people are really something else, because they made the book. They're in the book because they had an encounter with God.

Without an encounter, and without future encounters, one would wander around and eventually get bored with it all. But with an encounter, the kingdom becomes clearer. You get a greater focus and you get clarity about everything in your life. You aren't wandering around not knowing your purpose.

What you do means nothing without vision. People perish. But when you have an encounter with God, you spend time, you listen, you pay attention to what it is that God is saying. He'll help you do what you're created to do.

It's not just a few elite people who are designated to hear God. It's for every one of us. You can have all of it you want. With the kingdom comes a greater focus, clarity, purpose, excitement, intensity and genuine zeal. I'm more excited now than all the 37 years that I have been doing this.

Jesus wants people who are sensitive, obedient and consistent. A lot of people are sensitive, but they don't do anything with what they hear. One of the holy fears I have with my life is that I look back at the end of my life and look at all the stuff that could have happened in me, around me and through me, but I was insensitive to what the Spirit of God wanted to do. That's a good fear to have.

Be consistent. "*I tried it and it didn't work*". STOP QUITTING! He's looking for people who go through the fire, who will take intense testing and trials in their life, because He's doing something important, significant, and profound in you that can't happen any other way.

## Saturday:

The world right now needs people who have been through the fire, and through that fire, they've learned how to trust God, to lean on Him, and whenever all other options have played out, they just know that something good is going to happen.

Jesus said that you have to buy gold refined in the fire to get out of a lukewarm state. It's going to cost you to come out of it. It could be really hard, so hard, in fact, that many people never recover from their lukewarm state.

You are being conformed into the image of Jesus, made like Him, something extremely valuable, but hidden until it's revealed through intense testing and trials. A deep spiritual understanding that even though you're going through intense problems, trials, testing, that something extremely valuable is being done in you.

A lot of people think, *"If I didn't have this one thing going on in my life right now, I could be a better hand for God"*. NOT SO! Lean on Him and get desperate for Him in your situation. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit and be obedient to the Lord.

You should be seeing things differently than someone who is unredeemed and not born-again. This includes people who are lukewarm or who are over-religious. Start to see things from a kingdom perspective and look with spiritual eyes.

*You say it's four months till the harvest, but I say, "lift up your eyes and look for the fields are white unto harvest"* He's telling them to get up here from a spiritual standpoint with a kingdom mindset and see that the fields are white. Right now!