

The Poor #2

AT's Snacks-- November 30, 2025

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Monday:

Knowing He is Father is not the same as knowing Him as Father. It's interacting and deepening in your relationship with Him. It's spending time where it's just you and Him. He always has time for you. It's the prize of all prizes.

God has given us a time of unparalleled favor and there's a hunger on the hearts of people for truth, something real, something eternal and something that satisfies the soul, body and spirit.

I want you to highlight this scripture and write it down. Let it get embedded in your memory.

James 2:5 say, *"Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He promised to those who love Him?"*.

When it comes to those who are less fortunate in your midst, don't skip over them. Don't treat them as second class citizens of the kingdom. So, think about that verse, what it might mean for you, and how you live out and walk out the things that we have.

When we talk about the poor, we think of people who are poor in resources. That's not always the case.

Poor Relationally....Their relationships are on the surface. They don't invest deeply in relationships, mainly because they've been hurt somewhere in life. They don't open up or let others in. They keep a wall up. They avoid being known, mainly because they think people won't like them. They are prone to isolating themselves.

Tuesday:

These sometimes blame others for the state that they are in, because they have been wronged, hurt and maybe betrayed. These are ones who probably won't reach out to you, so you have to reach out to them.

Some of these people set up boundaries and others don't. Some have no boundaries and become a target for people to run over them or treat them unfairly. Where others set up such rigid boundaries that they push people away.

I believe that every believer is going to have to learn how to navigate these things. You have to monitor your heart. The Holy Spirit helps us with that. He always points out things very gently, things that need to be changed, adjusted, altered and tweaked.

The books say that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, even the person who betrayed you. We learn how to forgive. It's in relationships where the Kingdom of God has the greatest opportunity to present itself.

There are some people who are poor in health...physically, emotionally or mentally. Watch out for worry, because worry fights directly against your faith. To spend a lot of time worrying about those things is keeping your faith at bay. *"Which of you, by worrying, can add one cubit to your stature"*.

The enemy will take any opportunity he can to exploit whatever weakness he perceives. He's good at that, and he will take you down that worry trail until you get in the ditch.

Grief is a tough one to navigate, especially if you don't have a good support group of people. That's what the body of Christ should provide for everyone of us.

Wednesday:

Grief is a really healthy part of getting well from loss. Grieving is not a sign that something's wrong with you. It's a sign that something's really right with you. But when your grief starts to become counterproductive, you have to know this about yourself. That's why knowing the Father is so important.

Feeling unloved keeps you from seeing yourself like the Father sees you. He wants you to have that deep, intimate relationship with Him. Not someone who's maybe off out there somewhere, but daddy, someone who cares about every little thing about you.

People who are poor in emotional health tend to feel inferior and insecure, or over-secure. They're a target for what I think is one of the most damaging demonic strongholds there is, and that is a spirit of rejection.

When you are subject to a spirit of rejection, the enemy brings every other thing he can bring and dumps it on you. Why? Because you believe that you are rejected. Don't believe that lie. Again, your insurance against that is a deepening relationship with the Lord. Keep on doing that.

It's hard to convince somebody they need a relationship with the Lord if you don't have it yourself, but if you have it and are walking in it, it's easy for them to see that. It has to be real to you.

Spiritually poor people either don't know Jesus as all, or are those who are so religious-minded that think they know everything. It is like the Bible talks about, some who were always learning but never able to come to the truth.

Thursday:

We have had some here along the way who really didn't like their other church, and not very far along the way, started trying to make this church like the one they left. That we're not deep enough, spiritual enough or just too simple. These are those who are neck-deep in the river and can't get a drink.

The best place for the Kingdom of God to be manifested is in relationships. That's why they're so hard. That's why they're so challenging. The richness in life unquestionably comes through relationships.

Please read Acts chapter 2. The rest of this word centers around what this scripture is saying.

In John 21:15, Jesus pulled Peter aside, and He fixed Peter so he wouldn't live the rest of his life under condemnation and the failure that he went through. You can't let your failures in life define you. You have to let your destiny, what God wants to do with you, define who you are.

If you want to experience the richest experience you can experience in life, you need to start coming together with the people who God has positioned you to come together with. Like the early church, *"They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people, and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"*.

The same thing will happen with you. Those things that have been deposited in the times that we come together in the temple (church), those things will come out when you go from house to house.

You have to deal with what's going on with Jo Bob, what's happening with you and you learn to pray for people, you learn to love people, and you learn those who have a need. The goal is to help them who are poor in resources, help them become more sufficient for themselves.

Friday:

We have a lot of opportunities to help, and we get all kinds of calls here at Trinity. The stuff that we're talking about, the poor, strikes right at the heart of who we are as a people we care about. We are advocates for the underdog.

My Uncle Jack once told me, *"If you will start to pray for the people nobody else wants, He's going to give you the people that everybody wants, and He's going to take the people that nobody wanted and turn them into people that everybody wants"*.

The goal is to help them to get more sufficient in themselves. When we help people who are poor in resources, in a stuck place in their life, the goal is not to support them forever, but to get them where they can be more sufficient themselves. *"You give a man a fish and he can eat for a day. You teach him how to fish, and he can eat from now on"*.

I don't say this stuff just because it sounds good. These are things that we're made out of. These are things that we do. We don't just talk about them, we do them.

God said this to me a couple of weeks ago, *"If you can't take care of the onesies, I can't trust you with the crowd"*.

Those who are not connected relationally and can't connect in, they will ultimately fall away.

It's impossible for Eric and me to always know everyone who is here on a Sunday-our regular people as well as new people. That's why I always say every Sunday, *"Meet someone before you get out of this room who you don't know, and get a name"*.

I'm getting on all of us a little bit. We need to be better than that. Will you be better at it?

Saturday:

Listen, you're different than any church people that they've ever been around before. That's a very good thing. You're different because it's real to you. It's not just a show thing, it's not just my church thing. It's genuine, and very authentic.

People take a huge chance by even coming here to test the waters. They've heard stuff about you, good and bad. If they come and nobody says anything to them, *"Well, that must be true what I've heard"*.

They're taking a huge chance. They want to be part of a family, but they struggle to fit in. They've been pushed down by life. They've been rejected. They've been looked down upon by society.

So, for those people, not just the ones who show up, I think we have to go after them, only as God points them out to us, only at the leadership of the Holy Spirit. If you believe in what you have, this kingdom mindset, with love, I think you have to go after them at the leadership of the spirit.

We aren't doing this just to get them to church, but to discover where they are spiritually, emotionally and relationally. And then help them if they're willing to get to a better place. That's love!

First look at the people in your circle of influence, the people who you see at the feed store or play golf with, the people that you normally come in contact with. That's your first field of ministry. And as the door opens, we step in. Exercise some faith, step across the threshold and swing for the fence with your life. This is the stuff that makes your life rich.

There are unlimited opportunities out there right now, so pray for them, reach out to them and let them know they're loved and missed. It's how the body should work. **Who are the onesies for you?**