

The Poor #3

AT's Snacks-- December 7, 2025

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Monday:

Putting spiritual stuff aside, if you look at the advice that experts give out, one of the leading characteristics of not only having a good life, but having a healthy, long life, is having good strong interpersonal relationships.

Be a person who is an agent of reconciliation. *"But... I'm the one who got betrayed!"*. That's what happened to Jesus. But, rather than backing off and taking the place of not doing anything, Jesus became the agent of reconciliation so He could reconcile you to Him. That's one of the things that God wants to complete in you.

At the end of your life, the things that have made your life rich are the people who have been in your life all along. So, put the value on your relationships that is supposed to be there.

There are people who are emotionally poor. There could be a broad variety of mental instability, people discouraged, depressed, anxiety and those kinds of things. But the worst kind of poverty that there is, is to be spiritually poor.

If you are walking with Jesus, you have what everyone in the world is looking for, whether they know it or not. So, why would you keep that just to yourself and not give it away?

We've helped you with every step along the way, so you'd know how to communicate about what is happening in your life as a result of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. So, give that away. Help other people become as rich as you are.

Tuesday:

Please take the time to read Revelations 3:14-22. This scripture talks about the church in Laodicea and about lukewarm Christianity. This scripture greatly helps to set the tone for the rest of this message.

The scripture above mentions five very important words that we are going to focus on; wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

Wretched means unhappy or in an unfortunate state, unable to flourish in kingdom life. They don't have a clear view of where they are or who they are. They think they are rich, but they're not rich. You won't see your true self until you begin to see the Father.

When talking about the kingdom, I'm not talking about heaven. Heaven is included in the Kingdom of God, but it's not the kingdom. The Kingdom of God is an economy. It's a way that God does things.

Lukewarm Christianity is an epidemic. It's running rampant in the American church. They are those who are unaware of the incredible enormity of their spiritual bank account, which is probably a pretty broad percentage of the whole body of Christ. Not aware of what they actually have.

We can be spiritually rich, but be living like a pauper. I call that living in the low lands of salvation, not experiencing the fullness of what happened to you when you said yes to Jesus. We're talking about lukewarm Christianity, so lukewarm that Jesus said He would spew you, or vomit you, out of His mouth.

Wednesday:

Being miserable means to be bored with Christianity. They are unaware of the incredible adventure to be had in walking this thing out in the Kingdom of God.

So, why not start winning now? Why not look at the problems that you're having as part of the adventure and start connecting again, relationally, with the Father? It brings you back to home. It anchors you and it gives you peace, even in the midst of the storm.

American Christianity is full of people who are in the church today, but they're bored with everything, which is a sad state of affairs. People in the Bible Belt think the church is doing great. That's because most of them have not seen the real thing, and the real thing is presenting itself now.

Like never before, they are doing good, but they are spiritually bankrupt. Jesus said, "*You say you are rich, but I say you are poor.*" Those in Jesus's day knew the Old Testament writings, but they didn't know what it meant.

A lot of people in the church today know what it says, but they don't know what it means. And to know what it means, it takes that ongoing relationship with the Father.

One of the reasons that people don't go to church is, "*Well, I can connect just as well with the Lord out there in the deer stand*", but that's a self centered, self focused response. What about the gifts that God has given you, that He intends for you to bless others with?

Thursday:

There's not one single reference in this book (the Bible) about someone who lived a successful spiritual life outside of the body and the community of believers-- not one. The Bible encourages us that we're not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

You are blessed in certain ways so that you can be a blessing to the whole body. You're a body part, but if a body part is out there in the deer stand, what's happening to the rest of the body?

It's not my job to be doing what you should be doing. You are here to get fed and do something with it. We're all a part of the body, and if a body part is missing, let's figure out where that body part is, and let's go see what needs to happen for them to become a part of the body.

Having a self-focused mindset leads to being spiritually poor and leads to a failure to invest. *"Give, and it's given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will men pour into your lap, for with the same measure you give, it will be measured back to you"*.

It's investing something in people's lives, investing time, effort, grace and compassion. Whoever has been given a lot needs to give a lot. Freely you receive and freely give.

To be blind is to be unaware of the spiritual blessings available, unable to see yourself, and everything else, like the Father sees you. You will never know who you are until you begin or continue relating to God the Father.

Friday:

Fellowship with the Father gives you clarity into everything, but it has to be a priority to you. Make it important to you. Pay attention, give Him some time, and deepen in your relationship with Him.

To be naked is to be uncovered. It's like being homeless. They're never connected and or submitted to the leadership of the local church somewhere. I'm talking about a company, a family of people.

There are expectations on us as leaders, high expectations, as there should be. We're supposed to take care of you, but one of the problems is, you are expecting us to know when somebody's not here. So, if you know somebody who is not here, wouldn't that be your responsibility to reach out to them?

The people that you saw for a while and they're not here... question that. Make a call, make a text, check in. Who knows what may be going on with them? Eric and I get criticized all the time for not reaching out to people when they're going through something. We have had people who lose people in their family and we didn't even know about it. But we get criticized for it.

When they're lukewarm, they're too comfortable. *"You say you are rich and in need of nothing, but I tell you that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked"*. So the solution to that is to become aware of grace, receiving grace, and learning to walk in

grace.

The Lord wants us the start focusing on the “onesies”. God told me, *“If you can’t take care of the onesies, I can’t trust you with the crowd”*.

Saturday:

The enemy is great about picking off those who get separated from the group. Those who you see that are missing in action, those who haven’t really connected, but would like to connect, but haven’t been able to. You know them. You know who they are.

In the body of Christ today, the enemy finds someone out there. They’ll believe a lie. The reason they’ll believe a lie is because nobody’s reaching out to them, or cares. Nobody even realizes they’re not here. If they are not able to connect in, they will eventually fall away.

We have some really interesting people. They’re trying, struggling to connect. It’s awkward for them. You have to help them do that. They want to be a part of the family, but they’ve been pushed down by life and they need some spiritual help. They need someone to care.

Some of these have been rejected, looked down upon, and I think you have to go after them, not just to get them to church, but help them discover where they are-- spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and then help them, if they are willing.

Look at the people in your circle of influence. They’re going through a hard time. Who’s the kingdom person in the picture? Pray for them, reach out to them, let them know they’re loved and missed. That’s how the body should work. When we start to do that, it’s solid evidence that the kingdom is working like it’s supposed to work.