

Become Poor

John the Baptist's Question (Luke 7:18-22)

18 John's disciples told him about all these things. **19** So John called two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" **20** When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" **21** At that very moment, Jesus healed many who had diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and He gave sight to many who were blind. **22** So He replied, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."

Jesus' Response

When John the Baptist sent his question about Jesus, Jesus did not give a direct answer. Instead, He proved Himself through extraordinary miracles. This was His way—revealing His identity through His works.

Jesus' response highlighted six key things:

1. **The blind receive sight** – The greatest need of a blind person is their vision. By granting them sight, Jesus showed that He is the giver of light and truth.
2. **The lame walk** – Jesus enabled them to walk so they could be self-reliant and live freely in society.
3. **Lepers are cleansed** – Lepers were outcasts, but Jesus not only healed their bodies but also restored their dignity and place in society.
4. **The deaf hear** – Without hearing, a person is cut off from family, society, and God's word. Jesus removed this barrier.
5. **The dead are raised** – Death is considered irreversible, but Jesus proved that His grace triumphs over death.
6. **The poor hear the gospel** – This is the most significant point. According to Jesus, the most blessed are those who are spiritually "poor," meaning those who recognize their helplessness and completely depend on God.

Why Did Jesus Preach to the Poor Instead of Giving Them Wealth?

It is understandable that Jesus gave each person what they needed most—sight to the blind, the ability to walk to the lame, healing to the lepers, and life to the dead. But if this is true, shouldn't the poor have been given wealth to end their poverty? After all, they lack even the basic necessities for survival. Why didn't Jesus eliminate their poverty by providing money or food? Instead, He preached the gospel to them.

The reason is that just as the blind need sight, the lame need to walk, and the lepers need cleansing, the poor need the gospel more than anything else. Food can only satisfy their hunger temporarily, and money can make their lives easier, but these things cannot give them the peace and fulfillment that their hearts long for.

The gospel assures them that despite being rejected and looked down upon by society, there is a kingdom where they are valued for their faith, not for their wealth. It assures them that in God's kingdom, no one will be considered inferior because of their lack of riches.

What Does "Become Poor" Mean?

It means recognizing your spiritual emptiness and depending entirely on God.

- Do not rely on your abilities, wealth, knowledge, or righteousness. Instead, accept the grace of Jesus.
- "Poor" does not mean a beggar but someone who acknowledges that they have nothing and need the fullness of God.

1. Why Weren't the Poor Given Wealth?

If Jesus had only given wealth to the poor, it would have solved only their temporary problem. But by giving them the gospel, He gave them the opportunity to improve their spiritual condition—an opportunity that would bless them for eternity.

- If they had received material wealth, they might have been happy for a while, but they would not have found true peace and salvation.
- Money could have lifted them out of worldly struggles, but they would have remained spiritually unfulfilled.
- By hearing the gospel, they learned that they were not just free from poverty but also invited to be part of God's heavenly kingdom.
- They realized that God accepts them with love and grace, not based on their wealth or social status.

2. Fulfilling True Needs

Jesus proved that He gives exactly what is needed the most:

- The blind received sight – because that was their greatest need.
- The lame were able to walk – because that was most important for them.
- The lepers were cleansed – so they could be accepted in society again.
- The dead were given life – because nothing is more necessary than life itself.
- The poor were given the gospel – because that was their deepest need.

3. Why Should We Remain Spiritually "Poor"?

Jesus taught that only those who completely depend on God will receive true blessings.

- If someone only desires healing, they will only be free from sickness but will not gain spiritual life.
- If someone only seeks wealth and worldly success, they may have a comfortable life but will miss eternal life.
- But if someone desires Jesus, they will receive true peace, salvation, and eternal life.

4. What Should We Learn?

- We should not only seek worldly blessings but long for Jesus above all.
- We should remain spiritually "poor" so that we realize our need for Jesus every day.
- Instead of only providing temporary help, we should spread the gospel so that people's lives can be transformed completely.

Blessed is our Jesus, and blessed is His love

Led by the Holy Spirit, Guided by Faith and Scripture

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I sincerely thank my respected Pastor, Rev. Sahadev Nanda, for teaching this topic so profoundly and clearly. His guidance has been a great blessing, enriching both my knowledge and faith. May God continue to bless him abundantly.

With gratitude,
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