

Andy Deane • 1/23/22
Irresistible Faith: Treasuring the Poor

Today we'll see how making the switch in our minds from "helping the poor" to "treasuring the poor" can result in our community noticing an irresistible faith and it will also help us experience the fullness of God's blessing towards us.

Jesus treasured the poor by spending time with them and calling those with resources to support them.

Matthew 25:41-45, 41 "he will say, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He'll reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Those closest to Christ embraced his love for the poor themselves:

HIS BROTHER: *Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? (James 2:15-16)*

HIS BEST FRIEND: *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? (1 John 3:17)*

HIS EARLY CHURCH: *They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (Acts 2:45)*

What prevents us from treasuring the poor?

#1 It's overwhelming to see millions in poverty!
(What difference can I make?)

#2 It's uncomfortable to expose ourselves to struggles.
(Is it safe for me to help?)

#3 Some dismiss the poor due to broken politics or by assigning fault.
(They should work hard like me...)

Be careful in condemning the poor. Jesus was poor.

2 Corinthians 8:9, ...*Jesus, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Deuteronomy 15:7-10, *7 If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. 8 Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they*

need...10 Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you.

We will not experience God's best for us without treasuring the poor.

Acts 20:35, ...'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

A believer's enjoyment of God's gifts is only made complete in sharing them!

Luke 12:33, 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Everything in this world minus Jesus equals spiritual poverty.
Jesus plus nothing else makes us the wealthiest in the world spiritually.

HOW CAN WE PRACTICALLY TREASURE THE POOR?

- Serve your local non-profit this month & participate in our 4 outreaches (<https://go2cornerstone.com/ministry/community-missions/>)
- Drop off everyday items for Project Touch to use (<https://projecttouchonline.com/urgent-needs>)
- Join us to build a house in Mexico for a single mom (<https://go2cornerstone.com/mexico22/>)
- Craft a custom plan for yourself or your family