

We Are All Poor

“You are loved with an everlasting love. And underneath are the everlasting arms.”

ELISABETH ELLIOT

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

So far in this study, we’ve learned that poverty is not just a lack of money, but a lack of healthy options that lead to flourishing. As we dive into the Bible, we see that even when we have resources and access to good options, we do still have a problem. Our problem is universal. It’s spiritual poverty that keeps us from living the full and abundant life God intends for us.

In this segment, we will come face-to-face with our own spiritual bankruptcy. We’ll see how the “playing field” is level at the foot of the cross. As we recognize Jesus as the only solution to our spiritual poverty, we realize we have more in common with those experiencing material poverty than we might have imagined. That realization offers us fresh insight about the ways we might care for people without hopeful options.

Scripture

As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

ROMANS 3:10-12

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 3:23-24

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

PSALM 51:16-17

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved

ROMANS 10:9-10

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

Discussion

1. Romans 3 states our spiritual poverty. How has our sin made us spiritually poor?

2. What kind of death is Romans 6 talking about?

3. Why does God prefer a broken and contrite heart over sacrifice?
4. According to John 3:16, what does God do about our spiritual poverty?
5. How can we be saved from our spiritual poverty according to Romans 10?

 Watch



VIDEO
"We Are All Poor"

Discussion

1. What are your first impressions from the video? How did it make you feel?

2. What were some of the insights about people who are materially poor and people who appear to be wealthy?
3. In the film, Kim struggles to see the beauty in herself that God sees. In Christ, how does God see us?
4. How does Brian live out 1 Timothy 6?
5. Take a minute to think about where you are at in your own spiritual journey. Reflect on Romans 10. Do you remember when you “believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth” that Jesus was Lord?

Practice

 5 MINUTES

READ Matthew 25:31-46

PRAY Ask God to show you how you can use your time, talent and treasure to bless others.

JOURNAL Write down your thoughts about the connection between demonstrating our faith in Christ and how we treat others on the margins of society. How does what we read in Matthew 25:31-46 inform what God says in Romans 10:9-10?

DO If this study encouraged you to take the next step in your faith journey and follow Christ, take time to share with someone (perhaps your leader) about your decision. We saw how Brian used his God-given gift of art to bless others. Take time this week to list the ways God could use you to be a blessing to others who might be materially poor.