



Servant's Corner

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What The Poor Need Most

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

What do poor people need more than anything else? You'll hear many answers to that question depending on who you listen to. Here's just a sampling: Justice. Education. Employment. Healthcare. Money. But what does Jesus have to say on this issue?

Matthew 11:2-6 records a time when an imprisoned John the Baptist sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus whether or not He was the Messiah. Jesus told John to look at the results of His ministry for proof. Look at the list Jesus gives: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor... what do we expect Jesus to say?... "are made rich", right? That's the natural corollary. That's not what Jesus says. Instead He says, "**The poor have the gospel preached to them**".

Isn't that fascinating? According to Jesus the poor need to hear the gospel just as the blind need sight or the dead need to be resurrected. Furthermore He tells John that His preaching the gospel to the poor is proof that He really is the Messiah. If we understand that at the deepest level, poverty is a spiritual rather than an economic problem, Jesus' answer makes perfect sense. To discouraged, hopeless people, there is no more hope-inspiring message than the gospel. So, when you go out to help the poor, don't forget to give them the gospel. According to Jesus, it's what they need most.

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