

## **POOR NO MORE**

The Bible says that we are to be followers of God as His dear children. (Eph 5:1) That means we are to love the things that God loves and hate the things that He hates. For example: God hates sin but loves the sinner. He hates sickness, but loves the sick. He hates poverty but loves the poor.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe on Him should not **PERISH**, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

God gave His Son, Jesus, not only so that we could be forgiven, and set free from the power of sin; not only that by His stripes we were healed; but also so that through His poverty we would have a well supply.

God does not want us to **PERISH** spiritually, physically, emotionally, or financially. Poverty brings much damage to people personally, nationally and universally.

II Corinthians 8:9 says “though He (Jesus) was rich yet, He became poor FOR OUR SAKES that we through His poverty might become rich”. Jesus left the wealth and splendor of Heaven and became a man here on earth. There is no poverty in Heaven. When the scripture says Jesus became “poor” we need to ask ourselves a few questions. Why? For what purpose?

He become poor FOR US so that we through His coming to earth and dying for us (which was poverty to Him), WE could be made rich or have a well supply, here

and now. Let's keep the concept of Jesus becoming poor in perspective. Was He really a poor man?

Though He did not live lavishly or live in a king's mansion, or enjoy a life of pampering, He did not live as a poor man. Some examples include:

- Jesus had a trade as a carpenter before He went into fulltime ministry. (Mark 6:3)
- Jesus had a group of women who helped support His ministry. (Luke 8:1-3)
- Jesus had twelve employees to care for. (The apostles: Matthew 4:18)
- He had a treasurer, Judas, who oversaw the treasury. (Remember Judas was stealing from it. Evidently there was enough in the treasury that the other apostles didn't know he was stealing.) (Mark 6:37; John 6:7; John 13:29)
  
- Jesus had valuable clothing such that the Roman soldiers cast lots for it. (John 19:23)
- Jesus said, "the poor you have with you always, but not Me". (John 12:1-8)
- Jesus gave to the poor. (Matthew 26:7-13)
- Jesus preached to the poor. (Luke 4:18)
- Jesus may have even owned a house. (John 1:35; Matthew 4:13) NOTE: This was before he selected the twelve apostles. Mark 2:1 – He had come home.

Jesus was our substitute for sin, sickness and poverty on the cross. Even as you received salvation by faith, believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth, so healing and prosperity is received the same way.

You believe in your heart, confess it with your mouth and stand on the Word of God. In addition to tithes and offerings, (Hebrews 7:8) God may lead you, by His spirit, to do something that will cause you to reap a harvest. But, obedience is the key.

Jesus told Peter to go to the river and pull the money out of the first fish's mouth. (Matt 17:27)

He told a blind man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. (John 9)

He told Peter to cast his nets into the deep. (Luke 5:1-11)

There would have been no record of financial or healing blessing in these cases if these men did not obey what Jesus had told them to do.

Keep worshipping God with your tithes and offerings and sowing seed, but also be led by the Holy Spirit and do whatever He tells you to do. It is a much better way than relying on the world's system for blessing and increase.