

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

Back in the mid 1960's, the Democrats under the leadership of President Lyndon Johnson began a campaign which they called the "war on poverty". Their concept was that by instituting various government programs that the problems associated with poverty could be eradicated. Some fifty years later, both Democrats and Republicans alike still labor under this delusion and continually seek funding for various programs and give-away schemes which merely exacerbate this societal problem rather than solving it.

The truth is that the underlying cause of "poverty" is misunderstood by these political soothsayers. Not only that; but, their definition of what constitutes "poverty" is wrongly stated by them as being the lack of a certain quantity of monetary possessions or benefits. They call this "amount" the "poverty level." Thus they devise means whereby to redistribute wealth of this type to those who have no appreciation for it, not having not labored to attain it. What is meant as a helping hand turns out to be an empowerment to non productivity and a sense of entitlement.

The LORD said, *"For ye have the poor with you always."* HE instructed HIS disciples to have concern for these individuals and to seek to do them good in whatever way they can. HE also instructed the church *"that if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

Now, while this instruction is specifically and primarily given to those who make up the body of CHRIST, this is, nonetheless, a principle which should not be disregarded by any culture lest the ills which are promoted by laziness permeate it as we see manifested in our own society.

Poverty is the result of sin and the outgrowth of that curse which was placed upon the Earth by the LORD at the manifestation of Adam's corruption. No amount of human endeavor, expenditure, or creation of material wealth can ever change this situation and condition even one iota.

In our society men judge a man's "poverty" by how much money he has in the bank or whether he meets the government's defined threshold. Yet even natural poverty is not actually a matter of money, but rather one of mind and thought. A truly "poor man" cannot be helped, whereas a man who simply lacks money can often see his "problem" solved through determination and industriousness.

All natural men (without exception) are in a place of poverty when it comes to possessing those "goods" which are of value in the Kingdom of GOD. By nature men feel that they are in good standing with HIM, since they call on HIM when they get in a bind, and even help other folks out if it's not too much of an inconvenience. So they believe the LORD, surely, will not turn them away.

Those who think they can see are in reality blind. Those who have some form of righteousness are in reality unholy. Those who speak great words of testimony, declaring what they have done to gain salvation, are in reality deceived by their own confession. A man can only be rescued from this blindness by the grace and mercy of GOD. HE, alone, is the ONE who makes a differentiation between one man and another.

Thus we read in the Psalms, of HIM who *"raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill."* This is the heart and soul of the gospel message and is a summation of the work of redemption which the LORD JESUS does perform in the behalf of HIS elect Bride. The gospel is a sweet and welcome sound to those who are described as the "poor" and the "needy".

If a man is "poor", he cannot be helped in any way by someone else who is "poor." He needs a wealthy BENEFACTOR to deliver him from his poverty. He stands in need of SOMEONE who is touched with the feelings of his own infirmities and who having pity upon him, will provide for him what he cannot provide for himself. The LORD JESUS CHRIST is just such a DELIVERER who comes with "healing in HIS wings" declaring to those who find themselves in an impoverished state that HE, by HIS own power will set them free from the cycle of sin and death.

HE raises up the "poor" from the "dust". HE lifteth up the "needy" from the "dunghill" Are you poor and needy?

"Thy free grace alone," #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**