

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

The word poor appears in the New Testament thirty five times. Sometimes it is referring to those who have a lack of money but it is always referring to those who are destitute. Strong's Greek Dictionary defines poor as "destitute of wealth, influence, position, honour". The natural man considers such a state to be undesirable but the LORD JESUS said "*Blessed (i.e.; happy) are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" In another place, HE said "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.*" So the poor are those to whom HE was sent. This was a startling revelation to the religious world into which HE came. The Pharisees thought that money, power, earthly happiness, and influence are all a part of the Kingdom of GOD. One of the most pervasive and common messages heard in the religious world today is that of the promises of the tangible benefits of this world to those who are the followers of CHRIST, usually based upon their ability to perform good deeds or exercise "faith" in some greater or less proportion.

Poverty is a blessing when a man is made aware of it and can recognize that he alone is the cause of his own poverty. There are many who are in reality "poor" but who think themselves to be rich. Such is a great deception. Those who drink false doctrine as water and slake their thirst at wells which send forth a corrupted stream feel themselves to be doing fine because the preachers of such doctrine usually encourage that idea. These drinkers are usually very satisfied with their "religious life" and find great fulfillment in attending unto its exercises and seeing its results. They are those who have a name to live but are dead. Then there are those who know themselves to be poor but think that someone else is the cause of it. They do not own their destitution and they feel that they are owed something. They make excuses for their sin and some even blame GOD for it.

One of the greatest blessings that GOD can bestow upon a man is to give him a true understanding of exactly how, poor, destitute, and beggarly he is before the throne of GOD. Some seem to think this is but a temporary state for a true believer. I've heard some speak of "second blessings", "praying through", "getting the victory", etc. as if they had moved on beyond this state. However, the more a man learns of the glory and holiness of CHRIST JESUS, the more acquainted with his own poverty he becomes. Instead of growing richer in his mind, he grows poorer. Instead of reaching plateaus of blessing, he finds himself more vile as the LORD pours out HIS blessing upon him. Isaiah was a man lifted up to behold the very throne of heaven, yet he was overwhelmed with his baseness when he saw the LORD. So was Daniel during his vision and John on the isle of Patmos. The closer one is to the throne of GOD the more unrighteous he knows himself to be. He can find no place for boasting or glorying in anything but the cross of JESUS CHRIST because he is convinced of his utter destitution apart from that which is laid to HIS account by the LORD. He cannot find anything in himself of value except that which is bestowed upon him. For him, the motions and emotions of religion and the exhortations to duty give him no consolation but only serve to remind him of how desperately he needs the advocacy of a SAVIOR. This is the very purpose that the LORD is accomplishing in HIS true sons. When a man is convinced that he has strength of his own, he is not only deceived but is at his very weakest state. **The LORD ordains poverty in the earth in order that:**

**The blessings of HIS abundance can be appreciated.** Wealth cannot be valued fully by those who have always possessed it. But when a man knows how to be abased then that man can also be grateful for and value the abundant blessings of the LORD.

**The difference between the Kingdom of GOD and the natural realm can be contrasted.** The gospel is for the poor. Religion is for the strong. The gospel is for those who have nothing in their hand to bring unto the LORD. Religion is for those who feel themselves able to seek and serve GOD. The gospel is for those who find themselves destitute and unable to even seek the things of GOD. Religion is for those who value their own ability to love and serve GOD according to their own desire and will.

**HE may have glory in the redemption of a people without worth.** We who were worthy of destruction have been chosen to become the sons of GOD that the glory of HIS redeeming work might be magnified. "*The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people.*" Are you poor and naked before the LORD? "*Thy free grace alone,*"#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**