



Why He Came: To Preach Good News to the Poor

Pastor Greg Wendschlag December 10, 2023

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:18-21

Do you consider yourself one of the poor,
the imprisoned, the oppressed, or the blind?

WHO ARE THE POOR AND WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS JESUS INTENDS TO PREACH TO THEM?

⇒ Are the poor those without sufficient wealth to live comfortably in our society?

- What amount of money is necessary to avoid being poor?
- Have you noticed poverty is relative?
- If the poor are those short on finances, then wouldn't Jesus offer money as His good news?
- Have you noticed some rich people are very unhappy and some poor people are very happy?
- Would Jesus come from heaven to earth for the purpose of raising the standard of living for every person?

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

1 Tim. 6:6-10

⇒ The poor are those who are spiritually empty. Jesus' good news is the promise of eternal, abundant life with or without money.

“Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.” Mt. 5:3

- We came to realize we have been lied to. A fulfilled life isn't determined by how much I have.
- Some think they are rich when they are poor. Some think they are poor when they are rich.
- We came to realize love, joy and peace don't come from worldly sources but from God.
- We came to realize our best efforts will fail. Joy only comes when we are restored by Jesus.

Every believer has the same anointing Jesus had. We are anointed to be the message Jesus preached.