



## Poor

### Gospel: Part One

**He preached the gospel to the poor.**

The words of Jesus Christ state a six-fold effort that he undertook at God's request.

(Luke 4:18-19) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, {19} To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.



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**He healed the brokenhearted.**

**He preached deliverance to the captives.**

**He preached recovering of sight to the blind.**

**He set at liberty them that are bruised.**

**To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

That work still takes place today. When the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, five distinct effects unfold: healed hearts, delivered

captives, healed blind, freed bruised ones, and preaching of the acceptable year of the Lord. I must tell you, straight away, that these phrases might not mean what they appear to say. For instance, the phrase "deliverance to the captives" means, "forgiveness of sins to the enslaved captives." The meaning is a far cry from how the English reads. I suggest that we review the meanings of each phrase for the now, obvious reason—incorrect translations. If I'm right, you could be on to something big, something that will minister to every aspect of your life and allow you to live victoriously according to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Who are the poor?

The poor are the target of gospel preaching. Who are the poor? The strictest translation of ptochos, the Greek word from which “poor” is rendered, is “a beggar.” We can obtain a very accurate meaning if we see how God used this word in the Bible.

The first time this word is used in the New Testament is in Matthew 5:3:

(Mat 5:3) Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A more spiritually-focused meaning of the phrase “poor in spirit” is, “spiritually distressed.”

(Mat 11:5) The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and

the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

It is these spiritually distressed who have the gospel preached unto them.

(Mark 12:42-44) And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. {43} And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: {44} For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

A literal meaning refers to those who are actually without money.

The certain widow was poor; she had no more money.

(Luke 16:20-22) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, {21} And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. {22} And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

A man named Lazarus was a beggar. His food came from crumbs which fell from a rich man’s table. He eventually became so sick that he died. This man, a beggar, had nothing.

(Rom 15:26) For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Some Christians were also

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considered poor. Believers in Macedonia and Achaia gave of their abundance so these poor Christians could have their needs taken care of.

In answer to who are the poor in spirit spoken of in Matthew 5:13, let's read James 2:

(James 2:5-6) Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? {6} But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

The poor of this world are those who are poor in spirit. In the Gospels, the poor who are referenced are not born again Christians. In the Epistles, they are. In all cases, those who accepted Jesus Christ as lord

became rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom to come. Poor can refer to beggarly folks, but it can also refer to Christians (today), those who reject the ways of the world in anticipation for the greater which is yet to come.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown