

He Became Rich

2 Cor. 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Many people ascribe to this scripture that Jesus, in becoming a man, to redeem man endured/suffered severe poverty. They reference the following to further validate this belief/supposition.

Luke 2:24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves... (Evidence His Parents were Poorest)

Matt. 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled...He shall be called a Nazarene. (See, He grew up in a base city)

Mark 1:45...Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter. (He was homeless)

Matt. 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

But this supposition totally misrepresents our Father's character, love. If their belief is true, what does this say about the character of our Father? If The Father treated His only begotten Son in this manner, what witness is this to us to the manner in which The Father considers us and will treat us?

Our Bountiful Father, Before Christ.

The song says: "The ink needed to write the love of God would drain the ocean dry." It would be superfluous to recite the record by which our Father has truly blessed His people. This record which began back in Genesis where it is stated: "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." David said "I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). Psalm 35:27 states: "Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his

servant.” God is to us a sun and shield. The Lord will give glory and grace, no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11). One may consider the many patriarchs whom God blessed, such as; Job, David, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. See also Psalm 34:9-10, Deut. 2:7, Matt. 7:11

Jesus’ Riches On Earth

Luke 4:18 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,

Jn.13:3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; (Matt.: 11:27, John 16:15, 17:10, Luke 9:24, 15:17, Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:18)

Luke 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

Matt 2:11...and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh...Matt. 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

2 Cor. 6:10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and [yet] possessing all things.

People love to recite Psalm 23. But how few people believe that Psalm 23 represented Jesus’ experience on this earth? Jesus fed 4,000 and 5,000 men in one sitting, healed the sick, brought comfort and cheer to many, raised the dead, fulfilled all that was prophesized in Isaiah 61:1-3. These verses testify to the Father’s character as a Bountiful Father providing for His son. Jesus had all things that belonged to the Father, all of heaven was at His service to accomplish the Father’s will. True, Isaiah 53 foretells that Jesus would be acquainted with grief and sorrows. But, the grief and sorrow He experienced was the rejection of those He came to save, not temporal poverty.

Love: The True Measure

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work...John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Luke 15:5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6...Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance...19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The main reason for this misconstrued belief is because people today still have a carnal mind, which is enmity against God (Rom. 8:7, Psalm 95:10). The people define wealth through the lens of the carnal mind, not God's eyes. They are totally ignorant of God's definition of wealth, a definition and measure infinitely superior to man's (Isaiah 55:7-9). God's criteria of true wealth is Love. Love is measured by service. We see this ultimate love at the cross. Everyone likes to recite John 3:16, "For God so loved..."

Jesus came to this earth to reclaim that which was His, that which was lost through man's transgression. How few consider that Jesus in order to reach us, he himself had to experience what we experience, being tempted in the flesh, as we are tempted, that He might be able to succour us when we are tempted (Heb.5:8-10, 2:14-18). Jesus' greatest joy...

Psalm 21:1 The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! 2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah. 3 For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head. 4 He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever. 5 His glory is great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him. 6 For thou hast

made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.

...the Kingdom, which He is to receive, which kingdom He is going to share with those whom He ransomed. Hence, He became rich, when He ransomed that which was lost. These same words were spoken by Jesus in John Chapter 17.

False Blessing in Poverty

Another outcome of this false belief, promoted as meritorious, is a vow of poverty. The history of the church is filled with the accounts of monks and friars whom were professed beggars (in reality were in luxury at the expense of the poor). One being rich with temporal possessions is consider sacrilege. We have clearly proven the assumption which this practice is based upon is totally false. God always pours out blessings upon His people.

Matt. 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you...21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Psalm 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

Prov. 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. (Prov. 15:16, 21:19, Psalm 37:16)

I Tim.6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain...8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content...9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith,

1 Tim. 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 hat they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Prov 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: 9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Deut. 15:10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

When God spoke to Solomon: “Ask what I shall give thee,” Solomon responded “Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people:” God responded:

2 Chron. 1:11...hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: 12 Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

Solomon, in his early life, is a perfect example of Matt 6:33. However, the temporal riches which were multiplied and the wives which Solomon multiplied unto Himself; these turned his heart from God. The true principle is that wealth is a blessing from God to be used for His service, such as ministering to the poor, widows, fatherless. The true principle is that one not set their affection on, trust not in, worship temporal wealth, or attribute self as the source of one's wealth, thus denying God.

A Cheerful Giver

Another extension of this false belief today is the request for monies, contributions, funds from the congregation which are made by the Pastors and ministers from the pulpits. Their causes are numerous, appeals relentless, the amount contributed never enough. They are hurling anathemas of condemnation for failure of the congregation to give. They claim the congregation is need of self-denial, sacrifice...consider your paltry sacrifice in the light

of Jesus' infinite sacrifice. These false ministers misrepresent our Father's character of Love. What does God require?

Psalm 40:6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required (Isaiah 1:11-13)... I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Psalm 51:16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Neh. 2:20: Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Deut. 23:18 Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore...nor price of a dog into the house of the LORD...even both these are an abomination.

Their avarice does not end there. They also seek contributions and donations from the world to support and carry out the work of God. What message does this act communicate concerning God? Is this act not in the same light as when the unbelievers in the wilderness tempted God when they asked: "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" (Psalm 78:19)? God cannot accomplish His work without us, the world. Why would anyone want to serve a God, who cannot take care of His own? Have they forgotten Abraham's response to the king of Sodom when the king of Sodom offered Abraham (Abram) "take the goods to thyself?"

Gen 14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

True God loves a cheerful giver, a freewill offering from the heart. However, they seem to have conveniently forgotten this criterion:

2 Cor. 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. Col. 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Further, God, is God, He does not need our temporal offerings to accomplish His will.

Zech 4:6 Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts...9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

It is God whom makes all grace abound to us, by whom we have sufficiency in all things, who makes us abound in every good work (2 Cor. 9:7). We are only returning to Him that which is His (1 Chron. 29:9-14, Deut. 8:18).

It is More Blessed

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

The outcome that results from the common belief held of this scripture reference is that I have something to give to you, but I have no need of anything from you. For it is better to give than receive. We have totally forgotten the meaning of 1 Corinthians 12, which states we are members one of another. We need each other. I cannot be complete without you, and similarly you cannot be complete without me. God is the source of all blessings.

1 Cor. 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Matt. 10:8...freely ye have received, freely give.

Rom. 12:8...he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;

The true meaning of Acts 20:35 is that the blessings (a Psalm 23 overflowing blessing) which you receive from God, cannot be fully realized until you share your blessings with others.

No Where To Lay His Head

Eph. 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. 1 Cor. 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

We can see from these scriptures, the spiritual meaning of Matt. 8:20 “no where to lay his head.” Jesus came to the earth to seek and to save the lost; to redeem fallen man sentence of death. However, His professed people rejected Him, and chose Caesar a worldly king (John 19:15. Matt. 27:25). This rejection was foretold in Isaiah 53:3-4, John 1:11). This rejection was a repeat of Israel’s request for king in the days of Samuel (1 Sam. 8:7). This rejection left Jesus, as the head, without a body, bodiless. Hence His statement in Matt. 8:20, “the son of man has no where to lay his head.”

Jesus is still bodiless today. His professed people, an apostate church, have rejected Him from ruling over them. Since 1844, Jesus has been waiting for His people to prepare themselves. This is the Sanctuary Message of the Day of Atonement, a message of unity. The Day of Atonement’s purpose, “at-one-ment”, unites not only us with each other into one corporate body, but also unites Jesus with His people for eternity. (Study the High Priest Garments, like the breast plate. Also (Rev. 7, 14:1-5, Eph. 4:4, Rom. 12:5, 1 Cor. 12:27)

The truth regarding Jesus’ becoming poor in 2 Cor. 8:9 is His condescension, the humiliation, and being rejected in becoming a man to save mankind from eternal death. Since 1844, Jesus is waiting to receive His kingdom. Are we being true to our High Priest and His sacrifice by this continual delay? Let’s delay no longer. Let us share this blessing of love with the world Rev. 14:6-12, 18:1), that Jesus remain no longer bodiless. God be with you toward this end.