

IS POVERTY A BLESSING FROM THE LORD?

Dear Cla, let me answer some of your questions about the poor. Particularly this query: "Aren't the poor those people whose only wealth is the Lord since the world deprived them of material riches and glory?" But I have these counterquestions: If the Lord is the wealth of the poor, why then are they still poor? Does the Lord rejoice in seeing them remain poor? You said that the world deprived them of material riches. But again let me ask, who owns the world ba? Psalm 24:1 (NASB) says, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."

Did Jesus want the poor to remain poor when He said in Luke 6:20 (ESV), "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." I don't believe so! Because in John 10:10, Jesus even said that He came to give abundant life to everyone who follows Him! According to Matthew 1:21, Jesus came to save us from our sins. I believe He preached the gospel to the poor so that He can save them not only from their sins, but also from their destitute situation.

Matthew 6:33 says that if we seek God's kingdom by being righteous, He will add all things to us today. But righteousness is not measured by what you know but by how you live out what you know. As Doc Alvin Ang said, according to the parable of the talents, God has entrusted every one with resources and abilities. If He finds you faithfully using and growing the things He entrusted to you, He will reward you by giving you more opportunities. But if you are lazy and unfaithful, He will take even the little that you have. Therefore, when a poor person decides to work, and work well, God will send him opportunities that will save him from his poverty. But if he does not, no opportunities will come his way. If the poor says that he knows the Lord and follows His ways, his situation is sure to improve because that is what Jesus wants for Him.

If we decide to love the poor by constantly giving them money and food, I believe we will only make them poorer. We will make them believe that it is the responsibility of the rich to feed them. This will encourage them to be lazy and as a result, they will continue to live in poverty. If we love the poor and really want to help them, we should show them how to follow and obey Jesus so that He can add all good things to them today.