

## Blessed Are Those Who Consider the Poor

Almighty God has blessed us! From the inception of our country, God chose to prosper the United States of America both spiritually and materially like no other, except Israel. Spiritually, He blessed Israel above all others, whose Precious Spiritual Wealth has been graciously tapped by us, thanks to our Lord. And we today are eternally indebted to our Great God for His Kindness, and grateful to Israel.

Sure there were cutthroats, corrupt and deceitful men amongst our United States founding fathers and trend setters, but I believe the eyes of the Lord (2Chron. 16:9) were upon the pilgrims and persecuted Christians in flight from Europe and upon the poor who sought His Face. I believe many in that remnant anchored their hearts to proclaim, "Not by Might, Not by Power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord (Zech 4:6)." They started in the Spirit and finished in the Spirit and God even chose to prosper this country with might and power. Gradually, polluted streams like pornography, etc. parasitized itself to that prosperity, exploited that prosperity, and unfortunately rose with that prosperity as many cutthroats and pirates rode the wave of the American Dream.

Now, United States is at the peak of its prosperity! It's doubtful that even King Solomon in all of his glory had flush toilets and pressurized showers. I'm quite confident he didn't have stereos and telephones. Putting aside the idea of corrupt men fostering corrupt streams for a moment, it seems that prosperity in purer forms is a great blessing as long as it isn't dammed up from flowing to places where it can bring dignity and life to fellow human beings by way of needed aid and the spreading of the Gospel. Even the purest water of blessing, if it doesn't streamline God's Heart and Flow in His Spirit, will eventually become stagnate, stale, corrupt, and like the frog in the frying pan, gradually boil to death in the deceptive, slowly heating water brought to a boil.

The Dead Sea has an inlet of water coming in but none going out. Our sin nature will cultivate this form naturally if Living Water doesn't infuse it and open the River of Spirit to Flow out. Take the sin of Sodom revealed in Ezekiel 16:49, "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom. She and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy." Is the prosperity of a nation, a church, a family, or an individual bad? I don't believe it is, as long as aiding the poor and needy is a priority! I believe prosperity unshared will permeate our spirit roots with this dead and stagnate water and gradually bring forth corrupt fruit. We have an epidemic of promiscuous sin, homosexuality, divorces, abortions, pornography, greed, selfishness like never before in the nation. Is prosperity to blame? I don't think so! Though I do believe misuse of prosperity or unshared prosperity when the poor are crying out unheard, will gradually turn our hearts hard and our blessings into a curse. Do we need the poor in Mexico and throughout the Third World? I believe we do, at least spiritually, yet unknowingly, perhaps even more than they need us.

Psalms 41:1-3 brings us a powerful promise that we as a nation, a church, a family and individuals need very desperately right now as we're on the brink of war. This promise is: "Blessed are those who consider the poor. The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, And he will be blessed on the earth, You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed." Two aspects of this promise of blessing to those who are actively concerned for the poor through giving, prayer and service are: The Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble and will not deliver them to the will of their enemies. We are now in a time of trouble and terrorists have declared us as enemies. These enemies have a will for us, but God has deliverance from that will through His promise. That promise is definitely for us now! Let us pray (2Tim. 2:1-4 & Isa. 58:7-8) that God would give our leaders wisdom and protect our troops, and that we all would stand on the Rock and proclaim, "Not by Might, Not by Power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord (Zech 4:6)." As our country started in the Spirit, let us finish in the Spirit. Let us spiritually occupy till He comes (Luke 19:13) and not draw back in fear, but continue in His way of

concern for the poor (Prov.29:7) and bringing the gospel to the lost.

In Galatians 2:8-10 (RSV) the Apostles John, James, and Peter, the Jewish Pillars, met with the Apostles Paul and Barnabas, the Gentile Pillars, in an Elders meeting. They "asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do", said Paul. Has this Holy Spirit Council ever changed or that Scripture priority ever changed? The "one thing" and "one needful thing"(Luke 10:42) are catching my ears more than ever these days. Let us please continue to pursue these priorities and if you don't think you might be one that is considering the poor, it's never too late to get started! Thanks for hearing me out!

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