

COUNTER CULTURE

FOLLOWING JESUS IN A CANCEL CULTURE

The Poor
WEEK SEVEN

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus and scripture direct Christ-followers to live counter to culture, not conform to it.

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

- **When we see as God sees, we will love as God loves.**
- **We can isolate ourselves from the seeing those in poverty and insulate ourselves from feeling the pain of poverty.**

Scripture leads me to see that everything I am and everything I own comes from God and belongs to God.

Psalms 24:1

When we become over-comfortable, we can become under-exposed to the needs of those in poverty.

In the world, over 735 million people live in extreme poverty, on less than \$1.90 a day.

worldrelief.org

In Leavenworth County, over 6,700 people live in poverty, on less than \$32,000 per year (per household).

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/leavenworthcountykansas/PST045219>

The Gospel of Jesus changes how we see and respond to those in poverty.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

We are rich spiritually.

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those 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. ¹⁰For 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...

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

We will be content with what we have and with our extra, we will be generous to those in need.

We will be generous to believers in need by practicing hospitality and sharing what we have.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

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¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

We are generous to poor believers in need and poor unbelievers in need by doing what's good for them.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

We are generous to poor unbelievers so they can know the good news of Jesus.

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim 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, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

We are not generous to feel good or look good, but to glorify God by becoming like Jesus and sharing Jesus.



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westsideleavenworth.com/give
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TEACHING SUMMARY:

"When you see as Jesus sees, you will love as Jesus loves."

Kasey Robinson

It is easy to feel like we are lacking something. It is easy to compare ourselves with those who are next to us and say well if I only had what they have I would be content.

The truth is we have been given enough and we are to be content with what we have been blessed with and see the poor as Jesus sees the poor. As an opportunity to share His Gospel in the face of profound need.

So when you look at others around you and see their need what does it do to your heart and mind? Does it drive you to love and compassion? If not it is time to consider the actions of Jesus when we were spiritually poor.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us"

TALK IT OVER:

Do you ever feel like you are lacking what you need to be content? What are the things that you feel, in the moment, could fill that void?

Do you believe that Jesus came and died for all of us as the ultimate act of love?

What is one simple way that you can take to be content with what you have and show your gratitude to Jesus for what He has provided?

What do you see as one step for you or your family to take this year to, out of your excess, share with those in need?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1: James 1:22-25; James 2:14-17

Day 2: Matthew 25:31-46

Day 3: Psalm 41:1-3

Day 4: Proverbs 19:17

Day 5: Hebrews 13:1-3

Day 6: Matthew 6:1-3