

Evangelism and the Poor

By Victor Beshir

Christ was Born as the Poorest of the Poor

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

My Lord Jesus Christ was born in a manger. His mother did not have decent clothes for Him, so she wrapped Him in swaddling cloths.

He was born as the poorest of the poor. There was no home to receive the baby, only a manger.

In the cold weather of the winter, His mother did not have warm clothes for Him but just swaddling. Could these swaddling cloths protect the soft skin of the baby from the cold weather of the mountain of Judah?

No decent home or even any home at all. No protective cloth in the severe cold of winter. He left His glory to be born as the poorest of the poor.

Chris, the Poor Carpenter

Then He lived His earthly life as a son of a poor carpenter.

When He was sixteen, St. Joseph died. So, He started at this early age to work hard, as a poor carpenter, to feed St. Mary and Himself.

So, my Lord carried the cross of poverty since His birth.

Christ Honored the Poor

He lived poor to represent the poor.

He called them His brothers.

Moreover, He considered our help to the poor as Helping Him personally. This way, He taught us to respect the poor and love them.

Since He carried the cross of poverty, we honor the poor as the brothers of the Lord, a title not even a single rich man could obtain.

Moreover, He considered helping the poor as a condition for the entrance into the kingdom of God. See what He will say in the Last Day:

“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’” (Mat 25:34-40)

Christ Born as the Poorest of the Poor

Since the poor have the keys to the kingdom of God, then we need to help them to help ourselves entering into His kingdom.

Whenever I give the poor a gift, in reality, I give it to Jesus.

As I hug a poor person, I hug Him.

Each time I feed the poor, I feed Him.

When I touch them, I touch Christ.

While I'm giving them my heart and love, I'm giving my heart and love to Him

I see His hunger in their hunger

I distinguish His nakedness in their nakedness

I touch His poverty pain in their pain

I glimpse His cross in their cross

The poor people experience the harshness of life conditions and from time to time they stand face to face with pain of hunger. In the middle of all pain of poverty, sometimes they feel that they have been abandoned by God, or worst, they see no God around.

Although, they are His brothers, they are at risk of losing their faith in Him.

While they are honored, yet they may fall under the heavy load of the cross of poverty that crushes not only their humanity and dignity but also their hope and endurance.

Seeing all what happen to their souls, I wish, as an evangelism worker, if I could open the Lord's heart to show them His love for them.

The least I can do is to remind them of God's love and ease their pain through real friendship and Christian love and sharing.

There is a need to strengthen their faith to enable them to see the honor that is reserved for them

They need a true companionship that wipes away their tears through entering Christ into their lives.

As the true light enters into their lives, they realized their call and become not only great Christians but also great missionary workers, preachers, and servants of God.