



TOPIC God's Heart for you through the Poor

SPEAKER Joseph Chean (YWAM)

THEME Minister the Grace of God

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

GOD'S HEART FOR YOU THROUGH THE POOR AND NEEDY

Our God is a pro-active God who takes the initiative to seek us out; it is His desire to reveal Himself to us, both to and through the poor and needy, such as the widows and orphans. Being a blessing should be a lifestyle that we live out and demonstrate; it should be the core of who we are. In becoming a blessing to the poor and the needy, brother Joseph shares that we too will be changed and transformed as God commits to walk and serve with us.

HOW DO WE BLESS AND BE BLESSED

1. Understand that our God is a pro-active God

Our God is a pro-active one whose desire is to reveal Himself to even people who do not wish to know Him. He reaches out to His people through the transformation in their hearts.

When we look to the community of the poor and needy, brother Joseph encourages us to see service as a form of worship to God, where we will be able to worship without singing, give offering without money, and listen without preachers. We see the heart of God when we are challenged to serve beyond ourselves in the neighbourhood, the village, the town, the state or the world.

2. Understand the mission of the church

The fullest expression of the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) can be broken down into the following, where everyone on earth has the right to:

- (a) Hear and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ
- (b) Have a bible available in his/her own language
- (c) Have access to an available Christian fellowship group
- (d) Have a Christian education available
- (e) Have access to the basic necessities of life
- (f) Lead a productive life of fulfilment spiritually, mentally, socially, emotionally and physically

As disciples of Christ, we should always demonstrate compassion to reach out to the unreached people groups, the poor and the needy in ensuring that the above are met.

3. Knowing that engaging the poor reveals the character of God

A blessing of God is someone who does not only give, but is someone whose interactions are able to impact and make the other person feel edified. To the community that has never read the Bible, Christ's disciples are the ones who become the living Word, revealing the love of God through our actions, words and body language.

Brother Joseph encourages us to be the living Word by being the connecting bridge between God and the community, the unconditional catalyst in help others get on their feet, to embrace all, to pray, and give of ourselves generously to others.

BE THE LIVING WORD

As disciples of Christ, we can be a blessing and the living Word to the unreached people, the poor and the needy. There may come times when the service to others inconveniences us, but we are encouraged that God promises to walk with us when we walk with the community, to serve with us when we serve the community, and to change us when we change the hearts in the community.

QUESTIONS

1. When we serve in the underprivileged community, what sets us apart as disciples of Christ, from others?

2a. What are some of the challenges/issues/misconceptions that you might have that demotivate them from reaching out to the poor and the needy?

2b. On the other hand, what lessons has the Lord taught you through your acts of blessings?

3. Moving beyond a time-bound campaign, think of how you would like to make blessing others a lifestyle, and if it is for any specific group.