

First, I want to direct everyone to the link at the bottom of this document. This link is to a video on Facebook where a local Catholic priest, Fr. Jay Davidson, at the one minute mark makes the stunning announcement that we should engage in social justice so that, "Sometime, in the future, there will be no more poor people". Really? Wow! That is really a stunning statement considering that Fr. Davidson seems to have more knowledge of future events than Jesus Christ himself. In the Gospel of John 12:8 it clearly says, "You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." Fr. Davidson is clearly contradicting Scripture, which is without error, and Jesus Christ. Since Fr. Davidson is not infallible nor is he God, but Jesus is both infallible and God as the second person of the Holy Trinity, I will believe Jesus over Fr. Jay. By the way, nice priestly/clerical collar Father.

But let us study this Biblical scene more closely and relate it to our modern lives and events in our own country and city. Here are the additional verses of the Biblical event.

John 12:3-8, "Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages. He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Mark 14:10, "Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them."

Notice that it was Judas Iscariot that raised issue with Mary's actions because Judas felt the poor were more important than the worship and adoration of God. Also notice that after Jesus rebuked Judas, this seemed to be the pivotal moment or straw that broke the camel's back that lead Judas to act on his betrayal of Christ to the chief priests.

Bishop Fulton Sheen taught on these verses from Scripture when he said the following,

"What our Lord says to Judas, he says to the world today: You seemingly are very interested in social justice. Why are you not concerned about individual justice? You love your neighbor, why do you not love God? This is the attitude of the world today. We have swung away from a period in which we were concerned with individual sanctification to the neglect of the social order. Now we have gone to the extreme of being immersed with social justice, civil rights, and so forth, and we are not the least bit concerned about individual justice and the duty of paying honor and glory to God. If you march with a banner, if you protest, then your individual life may be impure, alcoholic, anything you please. That does not matter. Judas is the patron saint of those who divide that universal law of God: Love God and love neighbor." - Through the Year With Fulton Sheen

These Bible verses were a prophecy and typology from our Lord in regards to the present day climate and culture of the Christian world and Church. He is talking directly to us and about this present time when people will be more concerned about appearing righteous and charitable to the poor than truly worshiping God and truly loving neighbor and God.

There are people who are sincere in their efforts to help the poor and we should help the poor, but helping the poor is NOT our main nor our most important focus. Providing food, money, and material goods is not the best way to love our neighbor or God. The best way to love our neighbor and God is to obey God's desire to help everyone obtain the salvation of their souls.

While some people are sincere in their efforts to help the poor, many are not. They publicly help the poor or pursue political remedies for the poor because they love the public acclamation, praise, acclaim that doing so brings them. If you want to help the poor, you should do so in privacy, so as not to bring attention and praise to yourself. Gaining public praise and recognition does not help you obtain salvation. Here are some additional Scripture verses where our Lord teaches this in Matthew 6:1-4, "

Matthew 6:1-4 "“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Have many Christians forgotten these words of our Lord Jesus Christ whom they profess to follow? Because many make a very public display of virtue signalling and self righteousness. This message is reinforced in 1 Corinthians 13:3, "**If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.**"

So, the Scriptures are clear that you can give huge sums of money and all that you own to the poor, but it **does not prove nor demonstrate that you love either God or the poor.** Just like Judas Iscariot, champion of the poor, didn't really love the poor either.

Jesus cares greatly if you are suffering, sick, in pain, or diseased; however, if you are just simply poor, Jesus does not care. I repeat, to be simply poor, Jesus does not care because poverty is not an intrinsic evil. Nor is poverty a mortal sin. For something to be an intrinsic evil, it must always be evil and that is not the case with poverty. In God's eyes, it is better to be poor than rich. This is proven in the following Bible verses.

Luke 6:20 " Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:22 " And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. **Sell all that you have** and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

If Jesus cared greatly about someone being poor, he would not instruct them to give away **everything they own**. To truly impress Jesus a person, whether rich or poor, must give all that they have! If you only give a portion of what you have, even if it is a large sum of money or even a large portion, Jesus is not impressed. Once again, to impress Jesus when giving money, you must give everything you have. You can't hold anything back for yourself. This is proven in Matthew 12:41-44 " And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. **Many rich people put in large sums**. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called the disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all **contributed out of their abundance**; but she out of her poverty **has put in everything she had, her whole living**."

Finally, what are the actions of many Christians in regards to abortion and the "right to life"? Do many Christians actively and passionately campaign and participate in the local Right to Life Banquet, do they march in the 40 Days for Life, do they participate in the annual march in Washington, or petition local politicians to start programs to assist pregnant teens or pass legislation in support of the unborn and to stop the murder of 60 million children in America?

The Gospel is clear on this issue as well. John 15:13 clearly says, John 15:1 **"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."**

If there is no greater love than to lay down one's life, there is no greater hatred or sin than to take a life because when you take a life, you have truly taken everything that person has. You take their life, their love, and all money and material possessions because they can no longer enjoy them. On the other hand, when you take a person's money, they may still have their life, their health, their hope, their faith, salvation in heaven, their love for others, and the love of others. The poor person may still have many good things in their life, but the murdered/dead have everything in this life taken from them.

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