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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 6:20-21
Lesson #14
The Have-nots
01/15/2023



The Have-nots



Luke 6


“20 Blessed are you who are **poor**, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who **hunger** now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who **weep** now, for you shall laugh.”

1

“have-lots” and “have-nots”

Hierarchy of human needs

Abraham Maslow



Transcendence
- Image of God

Self actualization
- unique potential

Esteem needs
- respect from others

Belonging needs
- social security

Safety needs
- security for the future

Biological needs
- food & shelter

Spiritually oriented

Socially oriented

Sensually oriented

2

Worldly distinctions

“have-nots”

base things,
poor,
least,
weak


“have-lots”

noble things,
rich,
great,
strong

wives & husbands,
slaves & masters,
subjects & rulers

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The profile of the “have-nots” is complex.



Material deprivation
- not able to access key basic goods and services.

Social isolation
- not connected to a supportive community.

Political marginalization
- excluded from positions of public dignity, power, and respect.


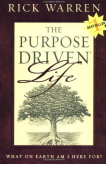
Natural disruption
- difficult circumstances beyond their control.

Family disintegration
- not supported by a healthy family foundation.

Spiritual disorientation
- not empowered from within to know personal dignity, power, and hope.

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“The Purpose Driven Life”

“It’s not about you.”

“It’s not about your neighbor either.”

“It’s about God’s purpose of your life, as a part of the Body of Christ.”

The Way of the Cross

is a call to BOTH the “have-nots” & the “have-lots” to take **their Baptism Seriously.**

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Review: Berean's guide to "Social Justice" doctrine and deportment.

- **EXPECTATIONS** should be consistent with broken people in a broken world, awaiting an unrealized, utopian hope.
- **GOD'S IMAGE** should frame our view of all humanity.
- **FAITH NOT FEAR** should govern our beliefs & behaviors.
- **EMPATHETIC LISTENING** should be a vital part of our learning, loving, and leading.
- **THE WAY OF THE CROSS** should dictate our path, priorities, and posture as disciples.



What might this look like for "have-nots" in our culture?



1. Human Dignity
- See **ourselves and others** as God sees us.

Ephesians 1

"18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, **so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,** 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

Confidence in following Christ is linked to how we see ourselves.

James 1

"9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to **glory in his high position;**

10 and the rich man is to **glory in his humiliation,"**



The "Have-Nots"



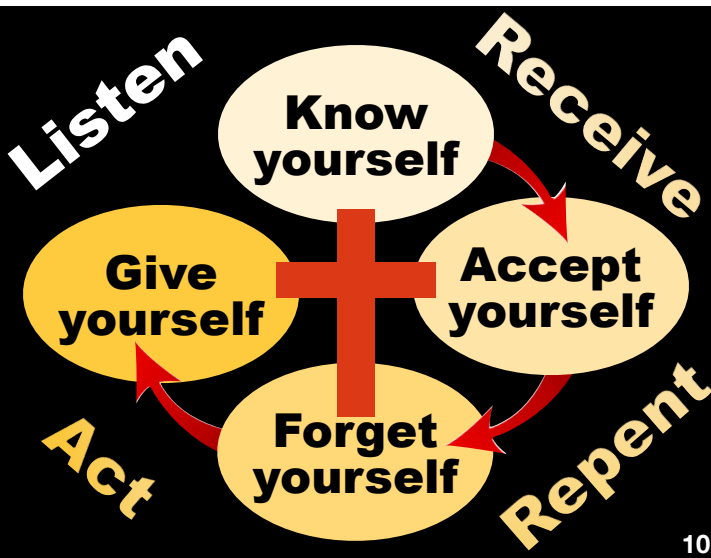
The "Have-Lots"



SELF WORTH is linked not to NET WORTH but to NEW BIRTH (God's Image).

James 2

"1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an **attitude of personal favoritism.** 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, . . ."



"My goal is not only to eliminate poverty but to terminate a much deeper hunger - the need for dignity and love."

Mother Teresa



2. Shared Sacrifice

- Count it a blessing to share the suffering of Christ.

Philippians 3

“8 More than that, **I count all things to be loss** in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, . . . 10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and **the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;**”



Is God's purpose to transform the “have-nots” of this world to be among the “have-lots” of this world?

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3. Joyful Contentment

- View circumstances as a gift, and our response to them as a sign.

1 Corinthians 7

“20 Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called. 21 Were you called while a slave? **Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.** 22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.”

Our worldly status is a platform, where we model our true hope, peace, and joy.

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1 Timothy 6

“5 . . . men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 6 But **godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.**”

1 Peter 5

“6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having **cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.**”

The issue is “anxiety”, not “accumulation”.

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Some things are best learned through stress.

Philippians 4

“11 for I have **learned** to be **content** in whatever **circumstances** I am. 12 I **know how** to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance **I have learned the secret** of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**”

Comprehension that leads to Contentment, and Confidence in all Circumstances.

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A teacher's responsibility

Offer an **EXPLANATION** that make sense of life

Be an **EXAMPLE** that clarifies applications

Raise **EXPECTATIONS** that are realistic

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4. Empathetic Community

- Share the experience of those who are left out, passed by, & looked over.

2 Corinthians 1

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; 4 **who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as **the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.**”

We are salt and light as we share the suffering of others.

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When asked what she had done to reduce poverty she said,

“I have spent most of my life trying to be one with the poor.”



Mother Teresa

5. Delayed Gratification

- Know that we bear a cross in this life to a banquet in the next.

Romans 8

“18 For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** that is to be revealed to us. . . . 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with **perseverance** we wait eagerly for it.”

6. Realistic Expectations

- Expect to walk by faith not sight.

John 17

“17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 **As You sent me into the world**, I also have sent them into the world. . . . and I have made Your name known to them and will make it known, **so that the love with which You loved Me** may be in them, and I in them.”

- Jesus’ prayer is that we would **relate to this world** just as he did, and that we would **experience God’s love** just as he did.

The Way of the Cross

is a call to BOTH the “have-nots” and the “have-lots”

Take Their Baptism Seriously.

“have-nots”

modeling the image of God through our peace, power, and joy in the context of our weaknesses

“have-lots”



The **Way of the Cross** for the “Have-nots” of the world.

1. Human Dignity
2. Shared Sacrifice
3. Joyful Contentment
4. Empathetic Community
5. Delayed Gratification
6. Realistic Expectations

Perhaps we need to frame ideas about “Social Justice” around ideas of


OPPORTUNITY, PURPOSE, & CALLING

that look more like

JESUS’ EXAMPLE!



“One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody.”



Mother Teresa

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Resolution

Demonstrate that you are somebody, called to be somebody, who will help somebody, know they are somebody.

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A Berean's look at ...



Next lesson
1 Timothy
6:17-19

A word to the
“Have-lots”

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