

**Jesus Champion of the poor!**

- **My journey - what is my vision and passion?**
- **What did Jesus think and say about poverty?**
- **What am I doing about it?**
- **How can you be involved?**

**Why did poverty and the poor upset Jesus so much?**

# My journey

## Three pictures

A tin shack



A front door



A street corner



# My journey – the shack





Two minutes walk from this 

to this 





This leaning against the outside wall 

.....of this 



# The front door!





**What was Jesus's take on it?**

- What does **Jesus say** about the **importance of poverty**?
- How does he **feel** about it and **react** to it?
- **Why** is it **important** to him?

# **Importance of poverty**

**Luke 4:17 – 21**

## **Context**

**Baptised and anointed with the Holy Spirit – Luke 3:21**

**Jesus just entered public life – Luke 3:23**

**Full of the Holy Spirit – Luke 2:1**

**Tempted by the devil Luke 4:1 – 16**

**This is the first recorded words of Jesus in public**

# Luke 14:17-21

**14-15** Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. He taught in their meeting places to everyone's acclaim and pleasure.

**16-21** He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

**God's Spirit is on me;  
he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,  
sent me to announce pardon to prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set the burdened and battered free,  
to announce, "This is God's year to act!"**

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, **"You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."**

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**God's Spirit is on me;**

**GOOD NEWS** for the **ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED,**

**FREEDOM** for those **BOUND BY LIES AND ADDICTION**

**HEALING** for **THE SICK,**

**FREEDOM** for the **OPPRESSED AND PERSECUTED**

to announce, "This is God's year to act!"

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, **THIS IS MY MISSION STATEMENT FOR WHAT I HAVE DO WHILE I AM HERE ON EARTH.**

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**EARTH.**

# Jesus' reaction to poverty

Mathew 9:35-36

**35-38** Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased **bodies**, healed their bruised and hurt **lives**. **When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke.** So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd.

# **Jesus' reaction to poverty**

**Generally**

**Feeding 4000 and 5000**

**Repeatedly reaches out to poor, women, Samaritans, lepers, children, prostitutes, tax collectors**

**Jesus and his disciples have a poor fund**

# Why?

## The Most Important Commandment

<sup>28</sup> One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: “Which is most important of all the commandments?”

<sup>29-31</sup> Jesus said, “The first in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so **love the Lord God** with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘**Love others as well as you love yourself.**’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.”

<sup>32-33</sup> The religion scholar said, “A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that’s better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!”

<sup>34</sup> When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, “**You’re almost there, right on the border of God’s kingdom.**”

Message

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**LOVING JESUS WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE LOVING OTHERS AS OURSELVES IS THE DESCRIPTION OF HEAVEN ON EARTH**

Message

# **Jesus champion of the poor**

**How important is it?**

**IT WAS HIS MISSION WHILE ON EARTH**

**How did he feel about it?**

**IT BROKE HIS HEART**

**Why is it important?**

**LOVING OTHERS BRINGS HEAVEN TO EARTH**

**Really, really important that it did not say do good works for those that are less fortunate than you – it did say love all others in the manner that Jesus loved them – if you do that you will not be able to stand seeing them in mess.**

**That love you cannot manufacture in yourself – it is a gift of the Spirit that we must ask God for.**

# What's being done?

- **Community needs audit**
- **Who cares?**
- **Street associations**

# Community Audit

- Heads of Borlase, Great Marlow & Henley College
- 8 Junior school heads
- Police
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Buck Social Services
- Localities and Communities Offices
- Community Practice Worker
- Marlow Community Association
- **Suzanne Brown – Mayoress & Age Concern**
- **Richard Scott – Wycombe Council**
- **Citizens Advice Bureau**
- More to come
- Anyone else?

# **Review and feedback**

- **Review & feedback**
- **Joined up thinking**
- **Use national resources where possible**

**Who cares?**

**“What hurts you the most?”**

# **Street Associations**

# A street corner



# **Conclusion**

**It is not about solving particular problems it is about seeing the love of Jesus as expressed by his people transforming Marlow – I am ambitious for Jesus in Marlow!**