

Rich By Poverty

~ Mzamani Kubayi ~
2017

Verse: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Theme: Jesus went from riches to poverty, so sinners can go from poverty to riches.

- In 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, Paul began to teach the Corinthians some ways to give. Then in 2 Corinthians 8, Paul gives seven ways the poor Macedonians gave their money.
- But when we reach v. 9, Paul pauses and takes time to teach about the *spiritual* riches of Christ and the *spiritual* riches he gives us.
- Verse 9 is like a box of gold in the middle of a kraal. The cows in the kraal have value, but not like the gold. The verses about giving our money are important, but Christ is most important.
- In v. 8, we learn two things about true giving. (1) It shouldn't be forced. (2) It is a test of true love.
- This is how Jesus gave (v. 9). He gave out of love. The *greatest* demonstration of love is the way *Jesus* gave himself to save sinners.

1. **Jesus was Rich**

A. This is talking about the spiritual riches of Jesus.

B. How is Jesus rich? (John 1:1-4)

(1) Jesus is eternal (he wasn't created).

a) "In the beginning was the Word" (v. 1)

b) Before Genesis 1:1, Jesus was there. No one created him.

c) Jn. 8:58 - "Before Abraham was, I am."

(2) Jesus is God

- a) "The Word was God" (v. 1)
- b) Jn. 14:9 – "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."
- c) Jn. 10:30 – "I and the Father are one."
- d) Col. 2:9 – "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."
- e) All the names of God are given to Jesus. For example, "mighty God" (Dt. 7:21; Isa. 9:6).

(3) Jesus is omnipotent

- a) "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." (v. 3)
- b) Jesus made all things, owns all things, controls all things, sees all things, knows all things. He is rich!

C. Application

- (1) The riches of Jesus should move us to amazement and worship of Jesus.
- (2) Rm. 11:33 – "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

2. Jesus became Poor

- A. When rich people give, they don't become poor. They give just a part of their riches. But Jesus actually became poor when he gave.
- B. His riches in Point 1 are spiritual; his poverty in Point 2 is spiritual.
- C. Jesus wasn't rich, but was he poor?
 - (1) No, Jesus never begged. He was never without food or clothes.
 - (2) No, Jesus was trained as a carpenter to earn money.
 - (3) No, Jesus didn't have his own own home (Lk. 9:58) because he was always traveling as an evangelist.
 - (4) No, Jesus was born in a manger, not because his parents were without money but because there was no room in the inn.
 - (5) No, Jesus and his disciples carried some money with them (Jn. 13:29) to give away to the poor.
- D. How was Jesus poor?
 - (1) He became flesh. (Jn. 1:14, "The Word became flesh...")

- (2) He was born of a woman. (Gal. 4:4, "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman.")
- (3) He was made a little lower than the angels. (Hb. 2:7, "You made him a little lower than the angels...")
- (4) He died on the cross (Col. 1:20, "...making peace by the blood of his cross.")

E. Illustration: Ephesians 4:8-10 (quotation of Ps. 68:18)

- (1) Example: King Zamazama goes down to battle with Mbhokota and defeats them. He then takes the spoils he won, marches back up to Zamazama and celebrates. But he couldn't celebrate until he first went down to Mbhokota.
- (2) In the same way, Jesus "descended" to earth (v. 9) as a baby, conquered sin on the cross, then "ascended far above all the heavens" (v. 10) and gives his children gifts, like salvation and the Holy Spirit.

F. Application

- (1) The poverty of Jesus should move us to be humble. Our church should be a humble church because we serve a humble Savior.
- (2) Phil. 2:8 – "Being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

3. Christians are Rich

A. Does this verse mean all Christians will be materially wealthy?

- (1) No. The riches and poverty in this verse is spiritual.
- (2) No. The Christians in Macedonia were poor (2Co. 8:2).
- (3) No. There will always be the poor on earth (Jn. 12:8).
- (4) No. The Lord makes poor and makes rich (1Sm. 2:7).
- (5) No. God, not Satan, sometimes removes riches (Job 1:21).
- (6) No. It is difficult for a rich man to be saved (Mt. 19:23-24).
- (7) No. Lazarus, the poor man, went to heaven, the rich man to hell (Lk. 16:19-31).
- (8) No. All Christians suffer, which may include poverty (2Tm. 3:12).
- (9) No. Paul "had nothing" but possessed everything (2Co. 6:10).
- (10) No. God usually calls the poor to salvation (1Co. 1:26).

B. How are Christians wealthy?

- (1) We are wealthy by the spiritual blessings given to us by Christ.
 - a) Forgiveness of sins
 - b) A new heart
 - c) Regeneration
 - d) Eternal life
- (2) In this way, Paul was a prosperity preacher—spiritual riches!
- (3) Eph. 3:8 – “Though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

C. Application

- (1) You cannot receive these spiritual riches until you first see yourself as spiritually poor.
- (2) Mt. 5:3 – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- (3) Christians are those who humble themselves, admit their sin, and trust in Jesus Christ alone.

4. Conclusion

A. Questions:

- (1) Do you love to worship the riches and greatness of Christ? Does it amaze you?
- (2) Have you ever humbled yourself, admitted your sin and trusted in Christ?
- (3) Do you come to church for worldly riches? Do you pray only for money, or are the spiritual riches of Christ your great desire?

B. When Jesus is the motivation, we don't need to force people to give. Paul said in v. 8, “I say this not as a command.” Mature Christians give, not because they are commanded but because of the example of Christ.

C. Theme: Jesus went from riches to poverty, so sinners can go from poverty to riches.

U Fuwile hi Vusiwana

Ndzimana: Hikuva mi tiva tintswalo ta Hosi ya hina Yesu Kriste, hikuva loko a ri karhi a fuwile, u tiendlele xisiwana hikwalaho ka n'wina, leswaku mi kuma ku fuwa evusiwana bya yena. (2 Vakorinto 8:9)

Xikongomelo: Yesu a ri karhi a fuwile, a tiendlele xisiwana leswaku vadyohi va nga kuma rifuwo.

- Eka 1 Vakorinto 16:1-4, Paulo u sungurile ku dyondzisa tindlela ku nyika. Eka 2 Vakorinto 8, Paulo u byerile Vamakedoniya tindlela ta 7 ku hanana mali.
- Loko hi fika v. 9, Paulo a yimanyana. A teka nkarhi ku dyondzisa hi ta rifuwo ra ximoya ra Kriste na swona tinyiko ta ximoya leti nyikiwaka eka hina.
- Ndzimana 9 yi fana na bokisi ra nsuku exikarhi ka kraal. Tihomu tin a nkoka, kambe nsuku yi na nkoka ngopfu. Tindzimana ta ku hanana ti na nkoka, kambe Kriste u na nkoka ngopfu.
- Eka v. 8, hi dyondza swilo swimbirhi swa ku nyiko wa mampela: (1) U nga fuseteli vanhu ku nyika. (2) I xikambelo xa rirhandzu ra mampela
- Yesu u nyikile hi ndlela leyi (v. 9). U nyikile hi ku rhandza. Xikombiso lexikulu xa rirhandzu i ndlela Yesu u tinyiketaka ku ponisa vadyohi.

1. Yesu u fuwile.

A. Ndzimana leyi yi vulavula hi ta rifuwo ra ximoya ra Yesu.

B. Yesu u fuwile njhani? (Yohane 1:1-4)

(1) Yesu i la nga heriki (a nga tumbuluxiwanga).

a) "Eku sunguleni Rito a ri ri kona" (v. 1)

b) Yesu u ri kona yi nga si Genesis 1:1 yi tsariwile. A kun a munhu la tumbuluxangi Yesu.

c) Yohane 8:58 – "Loko Abrahamama a nga si va kona, mina a ndzi ri kona."

(2) Yesu i Xikwembu

- a) "Rito a xi ri Xikwembu" (v. 1)
- b) Yohane 14:9 – "La ndzi voneke, u vonile Tatana."
- c) Yohane 10:30 – "Mina na Tatana hi endla un'we."
- d) Va-Kolosa 2:9– "Ku tala ka vukwembu hikwabyo ku akile eka yena hi miri."
- e) Mavito hinkwawo wa Xikwembu wu nyikwa eka yesu.
Xikombiso: "Xikwembu xa matimbia" (Dt. 7:21; Esaya 9:6).

(3) Yesu u na matimba hinkwayo

- a) "Hinkwaswo swi endlwile hi rona, kutani exikarhi ka swilo leswi endlwileke, a ku na xilo lexi endlwileke handle ka rona." (v. 3)
- b) Yesu u endlile hinkwaswo, fuma hinkwaswo, lawula hinkwaswo, vona hinkwaswo, tiva hinkwaswo, tiva hinkwaswo. U fuwile!

C. Ku Vekela Ntiyiso Evutomini

- (1) Rifuwo ra Yesu ri hi khorwisa ku hlamala ni ku dzunisa Yesu.
- (2) Varoma 11:33 – "Oho! A hi ku enta ka rifuwo, ni ka vutlhari, ni ka vutivi bya Xikwembu! Ku avanyisa ka xona a ku twisisiwi, ni tindlela ta xona a ti tiviwi!

2. Yesu u tindlele xisiwana

- A. Loko vafuwi va nyiketa, a va tiendli xisiwana. Va nyika xiphemu xa rifuwo. Kahle-kahle, Yesu, loko a nyikile, a tiendlele xisiwana.
- B. Rifuwo ra yena eka nhloko mhaka yo sungula a ri ri ra ximoya; na swona, kwala, vusiwana i vusiwana bya ximoya.
- C. Yesu a nga fuwanga emisaveni. Xana, u le vusiwani emisaveni?
 - (1) E-e. Yesu a nga xaveleli. A nga pfumali swakudya ni swiambalo
 - (2) E-e. Yesu u dyondzisiwile ku tirha na mapulangi. A ri na ntirho.
 - (3) E-e. Yesu u havile yindlu (Luka 9:58) hikuva a teka rendzo hi masiku ku dyondzisa Evangelii.
 - (4) E-e. Yesu u velekiwile exidyelweni hikuva a va nga ri na byetlelo endlwini ya vaendzi, a hi hikuva a va nga ri na mali.
 - (5) E-e. Yesu na vadyondzisiwa va yena va rwala xikwama xa mali ku pfuna swisiwana (Yohane 13:29).
- D. Yesu u tiendlele xisiwana njhani?
 - (1) U endlwile nyama. (Yohane 1:14, "Rito ri endlwile nyama...")

- (2) U tswariwile hi wansati. (Vagalatiya 4:4, "Xikwembu xi rhumile N'wana wa xona, la tswariweke hi wansati.")
- (3) U endlile la nge hansinyana ka tintsumi. (Vaheberu 2:7, "U n'wi endlile la nge hansinyana ka tintsumi...")
- (4) U file exihamban'weni (Vakolosa 1:20, "...la endleke ku rhula hi ngati ya xihambano xa yena.")

E. Xifaniso: Vaefesa 4:8-10 (yi huma Ps. 68:18)

- (1) Xikombiso: Hosi Zamazama wa rhelela enyimpini e ka Mbhokota. Wa va hlula. Kasi a teka xuma, a tlhandluka e ka Zamazama. Wa tlangela. Kambe a nga koti ku tlangela ku kondza a rhelela ku hlula Mbhokota.
- (2) Hi ndlela yo fana, Yesu a "xikela" emisaveni (v. 9) tani hi n'wana, u hlurile xidyoho exihamban'weni, a "tlhandlukile ehenhla ka matilo hinkwawo" (v. 10) na swona a nyika tinyiko eka vana va yena, ku fana na ku ponisiwa ni Moya lowu Kwetsima.

F. Ku Vekela Ntiyiso Evutomini

- (1) Vusiwana bya Yesu byi fanele ku hi khorwisa ku titsongahata. Kereke yi fanele ku titsongahata hikuva hi tirela Muponisi wa titsongahata.
- (2) Vafilipiya 2:8 – "Loko a kumiwe a fana ni munhu, a titsongahata, a va a tiendla la yingisaka ku yisa eku feni, ni le ku feni ka xihambano."

3. Vakriste va fuwile

A. Swi vula leswaku Vakriste hinkwavo va fuwile emisaveni?

- (1) E-e. Rifuwo ni vusiwana eka v. 8 swi le moyeni.
- (2) E-e. Vakriste eka Makedonia va le vusiwaneni (2Vakor. 8:2).
- (3) E-e. Ku ta va na swisiwana hi masiku (Yohane 12:8).
- (4) E-e. Yehovha wa tsongahata, kambe wa tlakusa (2Sam. 2:7).
- (5) E-e. Xikwembu, a hi Sathana, u susa rifuwo (Yobo 1:21).
- (6) E-e. Vafuwi va tikela ku ponisiwa (Mateo 19:23-24).
- (7) E-e. Lazaro, xisiwana, u yile etilweni; mufuwi u yile etiheleni (Luka 16:19-31).
- (8) E-e. Vakriste hinkwavo va xaniseka, ku katsa vusiwana (2Timoteo 3:12).
- (9) E-e. Paulo a ri "xisiwana" kasi u fuwisa lavo tala (2Vakor 6:10)

(10) E-e. Xikwembu xi rhandza ku vitana swisiwana (1Vakor. 1:26).

B. Vakriste va fuwile njhani?

(1) Hi fuwile hi minkateko ya ximoya leyi humaka Kriste.

- a) Ku rivalela swidyoho
- b) Mbilu leyintswaha
- c) Ku tswariwa ra vumbirhi
- d) Vutomi lebyi na heriki

(2) Hi ndlela leyi, Paulo a ri mufundisi wa rifuwo—rifuwo ra ximoya!

(3) Vaefesa 3:8 – “Mina yeloyi, ndzi nga lontsongo eka vakwetsimi hinkwavo; ndzi nyikiwile tintswalo leti ta ku tivisa vamakito ku fuwa loku nga ringanisiwiki eka Kriste.”

C. Ku Vekela Ntiyiso Evutomini

(1) A wu koti ku amukela rifuwo ra ximoya leri ku kondza u rangile ku tivona tani hi xisiwan eximoyeni.

(2) Mateo 5:3 – “Ku katekile swisiwana emoyeni, hikuva ku fuma ka matilo I ka swona.”

(3) Vakriste i vanhu lava titsongahataka, amukela swidyoho swa vona, ni ku tshemba eka Yesu Kriste ntsena.

4. **Xo Hetisela**

A. Swivutiso:

(1) Xana u randza ku dzunisa rifuwo ni vunene bya Kriste? Ri ku hlamarisa na?

(2) U tshama u titsongahataka, amukela xidyoho, ni pfumela ka Kriste?

(3) U landzela Yesu ku fuwa emisaveni? Xanu u kongela mali ntsena? U navela Yesu ku tlula hinkwaswo emisaveni?

B. Loko hi khorwiseke hi Yesu, a hi fanelangi ku fosetela vanhu ku nyika. Paulo a ku eka v. 8, “A ndzi vurisi sweswo hi nawu...” Vakriste va matimba va nyika, a hi hikuva va lerisiwa, hikuva xifaniso xa Yesu Krite.

C. Xikongomelo: Yesu a ri karhi a fuwile, a tiendlele xisiwana leswaku vadyohi va nga kuma rifuwo.