

THE GOSPEL



Week 7: Social. "Is my gospel good news for the poor?"

1 John 3:16-18

OPEN

Welcome to our series called **"The Gospel"** which means good news! Like studying a fine jewel, we are going to continue examining the various facets of the gospel reflecting on a different dimension of its message each week. So far we have examined both the personal as well as the public dimensions of living out the gospel within our surrounding culture through both actions and words. This week we are examining the social dimension of the gospel, in particular how we participate in gospel ministry to the poor. Jesus carried the good news to the poor and marginalized and calls his Church to do the same. This week we will learn how the gospel informs our social responsibility to bear the good news of Jesus to the poor.

SHARE & RECONNECT

- How has God been speaking to you in this series on the Gospel? Which dimension of the gospel has expanded your understanding the most?
- Share an experience you had with a "poor" or marginalized person. What were the circumstances? How did that experience affect you?

READING

- **Read Isaiah 58:1-10**
 - What do these verses teach us about what God truly requires of those who seek to know, love, and worship Him?
 - What is the blessing that is promised to those who respond to God in this way?

REFLECT

- **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.**

- What principles does the Apostle Paul provide in how Christians should approach the discipline of generosity?
- How do these verses help inform the motivation behind giving to those in need? How do these verses challenge you personally?

- **Read Acts 4:32-35**

- How did the early church approach generosity to those in need?
- What impact did this have on the Gospel mission?

- What has been your understanding of the connection between the Gospel and our social responsibilities as followers of Jesus?
- What fears or excuses tend to keep you from taking action in this area?
- What are some practical steps that you can take to put this facet of the Gospel into action?

**IT IS NOT SO MUCH THAT THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION, BUT RATHER
THE MISSION OF GOD HAS A CHURCH.
—OTT AND STRAUSS**

- As we care for the poor, our ministry is not something do we for God but something he accomplishes through us. As the Church, we are simply called to be a conduit for the gospel of Jesus to flow into the lives of others. How does this understanding give you confidence in caring for the poor?

PRAY

- Confess/repent of anything that the Holy Spirit has brought to light in this area.
- Ask God to expand your heart for those who are “poor” or marginalized in your community.
- Invite God to put a person in your life who is in need that you can practically show God’s love to in this season.
- Continue to pray for Wellsprings elders, staff, and leaders as we follow the Holy Spirit lead in this season of transition.