

Review

- Affluence in Genesis (Servant Dominion vs. Serpent Dominion)
- Affluence in the Exodus (Slavery vs. Poverty)
- The Law - Poverty and Affluence
- Affluence and the Conquest – danger of material blessing
- Blessing and the Exile – reversal of the Exodus

Jesus and Affluence

- The Incarnate Exodus (Prophet like Moses – Acts 3:22)
 - Poverty and riches as spiritual metaphors
- New Testament Poverty
 - Widows, orphans, disabled
 - Working poor (day laborers and slaves)
 - Peasants (am haaretz)



What was the socioeconomic status of Jesus? (Phil 2:7; 2 Cor 8:9; Matt 8:20; 11:19; Mark 6:3)

Discussion

It has been argued that “If one is a member of a privileged class that profits from structured evil, and if one does nothing to try to change things, he or she stands guilty before God.” (Ron Sider, *Rich Christians*) Likewise systemic racism is defined as policies and practices that exist throughout a whole society resulting in and supporting a continued advantage to some people and unfair and harmful treatment to others. What do you think the life of Christ has to say about the responsibility of those who may have passively benefited from the unjust treatment of others?

What does Jesus demand of his disciples?

Jesus blesses the poor and announces woe to the rich (Luke 6:20-25)

Asceticism and separation from the world? (Luke 9:57-62; 12:32-34; 14:25-34 – esp. v. 33)

Temporary poverty? (Luke 9:3; 10:4; Luke 18:28-30; 22:35-36)

Jesus Lord of Delight (John 2:1-11; 12:1-8; Luke 5:33-39; Luke 7:34)

The second circle of disciples (Luke 8:3; 23:50-51)

How should earthly wealth be handled?

Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-34)

Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-9)

Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

The problem isn't his riches, it is his indifference to the situation of Lazarus

Why is he responsible for Lazarus?

Contrast with the Good Samaritan

Is it possible to be wealthy and faithful to God?

The rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-27)

Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10; Luke 3:13)

Parable of the Ten Minas (Luke 19:11-17)



Discussion

Remember that Luke wrote his gospel and Acts with his presumably wealthy patron, Theophilus in mind (Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3). Given our discussion thus far on the socioeconomic status that Jesus chose for himself, his admonitions to his disciples about the cost of discipleship, the narratives about the rich young ruler and Zaccheus, and the four wealth parables the Parable of the Rich Fool, the Parable of the Shrewd Manager, the Parable(?) of the Rich Man and Lazarus, and the Parable of the Ten Minas, what do you think Luke is trying to teach us about the handling of earthly wealth? And the possibility of being faithful to God even though wealthy?