

DAY 19 POOR



Luke 4:18

"He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

For about five years, I lived in the central valley of California in a city called Visalia. It's a small-town compared to bay area numbers, but at 120,000 people, it's the biggest town between Fresno and Bakersfield by far. I remember one of the things I missed living in the valley was trader joes. But there were always rumors of one coming to Visalia. I decided to really research and see if the rumors were true.

It turns out that the demographics of Visalia didn't support bringing a trader joes, as in, the median income was substantially lower than what Trader Joe's looked for before they invested in a store. I remember thinking everyone I knew would flock to a trader joes store, and then I realized just how out of touch I was with my community. It didn't take much research to show me that there was a huge percentage of our community living below the poverty line. People I never saw or interacted with. It was massively eye-opening.

It is all too easy for us to be entrenched in the rhythm of our own lives and become blind to the challenges of those that have less. But throughout the Bible, God rescues, defends, and hears the cry of the poor.

Jesus placed a very high priority on sharing the good news with the poor. There's a song we used to sing with a lyric that says, "Break our heart for what breaks yours." And it's so clear that people suffering in poverty breaks the heart of God. And it should break ours as well.

Lent challenges us to examine how we ourselves relate to those who are impoverished. Is there something more I can do?

As we pray today, I want to pray through 3 questions that might bring to mind your next steps.

1. Who do I know personally who suffers from poverty?
2. What can I learn from the poor?
3. How is God calling me to help in efforts aimed at alleviating poverty?

Daily Practice

As your practice today, make a donation to a non-governmental organization to works alongside the economically poor.

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book Pauses for Lent and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.