



## #1: The Value of the Leader

*8 Part series designed to smash the limitations a poverty mentality places on a leader*

**Personal discovery:** Revelation is more practical than skills

- Talk about identifying a poverty mentality
- Talk about the revelation of your value to your Father
- How we can learn to walk this out in our lives and leadership.

**Why:** Because this revelation has the power to transform the way you lead!

## #1: What do we mean by a poverty mentality?

Backstory to this series:

**Started in Zimbabwe:**

- As an Apostolic Team discussed why such a poverty mentality grips so much of the church
- As children of God we are called to create, build, farm, start businesses .... PROSPER!
- Poverty mentality is poverty on the INSIDE - not just lack of resources on the outside as much as a poverty on the inside
- When poverty becomes a way of thinking - a mindset and even a culture
- When poverty has now become **central to your identity**

**DEFINITION OF A POVERTY SPIRIT or**

**poverty mentality:** A POVERTY SPIRIT is a spirit of lack, defeat, neglect of helplessness

**It was emphasised in Pakistan:**

- IDENTITY: 'We are the poor persecuted Christians of Pakistan'
- CULTURE: Squalor, filth, rubbish, pollution, neglect, sickness
- ATTITUDE: Spiritualised begging. We must pay for everything all the time

This is an extreme example - but what I realised is that many of these same elements I see in my own life and the life of many Christians even in so called wealthy nations.

**BIG IDEA: Spiritual poorness should be a blessing because it draws us to God and connects us with his riches**

*Matthew 5:3 (NIV)*

*3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Instead of seeing spiritual poverty connecting people to the richness of the Kingdom, we are seeing Christians all over the world who proclaim to have met God and yet continue with this poverty mentality**

**Something is not right!**

**Listen to the language of Scripture:**

*Ephesians 1:3-8 (NIV)*

*"3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy*

*and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us."*

Why is it that Christians can have a relationship with God and yet have no access to the abundance of the Kingdom?

**The Kingdom points to spiritual ABUNDANCE yet so many Christians live with such an inner poverty of spirit**

**Example of Peter and the beggar:**

*Acts 3:6 (NIV)*

*6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*

**He may not have had 'silver or gold' - outer poverty**

- But he knew that he had something greater
- He knew that he was full of the Spirit
- He knew he was a child of God
- He knew his value to his Father

**BIG IDEA: In Christ we should be receiving and living in the glorious riches of the Kingdom NOT as beggars sitting lame outside the temple!**

*Psalms 37:25 (NIV)*

*25 I was young and now I am old,  
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken  
or their children begging bread.*

## QUESTIONS THAT ARE BURNING INSIDE ME:

- How could we his children, his Bride, be begging for bread?
- Why do so many Christians feel forsaken or abandoned by the God who sent his Son from heaven to rescue us?
- How can so much of the church feel so poor on the inside when God has given so much?
- How can we doubt God's provision when He has given his Son?
- How can we feel neglected when He says:

*James 2:5 (NIV)*

*5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?*

## CHALLENGE:

God has called us to be like PETER, rich on the inside and ready to give. NOT, like the beggar who sat lame outside the temple.

**Leaders** - we can only give what we have. If we think we are nothing then we have nothing to give!

## QUESTIONS:

1. Who do you, REALLY, feel more like - Peter or the lame beggar? Why?
2. How have you seen a poverty mentality manifest in the life of others? In your own life?
3. Why do you think so many in the Kingdom struggle with a poverty mentality?