

Poverty: blessings & hazards

Blessings

1. Dependence upon God for daily bread.
2. Thankfulness for daily bread.
3. Minimizes the pride of self-sufficiency.
4. The most fruitful mission fields have been among the poor.
5. Less time thinking about protecting your belongings *and getting more*.
6. Diminished greed-factor [*possibly*].
7. Greater tendency to be generous. Our homeless often share freely.
8. Aware that “the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. *Job 1.21*”

Hazards

- a. Greater tendency to be greedy toward those “richer” even just a little bit richer.
- b. Comparing one’s own possessions with others negatively.
- c. Envy toward the rich.
- d. Blaming God for His choosing your situation: unfair, unkind, uncaring, biased.
- e. Pride in self-sufficiency: “*I’m better than those with the silver spoons.*”
- f. Discontent.
- g. American debt is (*almost always*) the result of greed.

Just remember

- i. Phil 4.11 “*I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content*”
- ii. Phil 4.19 “*my God shall supply all your need*”
- iii. Heb 13.5 “*be content with such things as ye have.*”

* A Haitian subsistence farmer was once asked by a missionary,
“What makes a person poor?”

The lady’s answer, “Someone who has no friends.”

* A lady brought a day’s wages to my friend, the pastor of a church in Cuba.
He asked her, “Sister, have you and your children eaten today?”

She smiled and answered, “O pastor, we never eat every day.”