

## Why Did the Lord Become Poor?

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although He was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by His poverty could become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

Christ's humbling is what Paul holds up as an example of what it means to give. There was a time when Jesus was rich. He was not rich while he lived on earth, though He sometimes stayed with rich people. He had friends and neighbors who were rich; some who followed Him were rich, but He Himself had nothing at all. But once He was rich, according to this verse. When was that? Do you remember in the prayer of Jesus, recorded in John 17:5? He says to the Father, "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

That is insightful! That verse indicates that Jesus recalled a time when He was rich, among other aspects of His Divine Glory, when everything in the universe belonged to Him. All the hosts of heaven bowed down in continuous worship before Him, and hundreds of thousands were ready to serve Him at His word. He owned it all, everything was His, but He gave it up voluntarily. He deliberately impoverished himself. As Paul put it in Philippians, "He humbled himself" (Philippians 2:8), and He became a man, just a poor man. How wonderful!

Remember! He constantly borrowed everything. He had nothing of His own. He borrowed food, clothing, a coin to give an illustration, a donkey to enter the city of Jerusalem, and He finally had to borrow another person's tomb in which to be laid. There was one Biblical reference when it says the disciples all went to their own homes, but He went to the Mount of Olives. He had no home to go to, no place to lay His head. He had no more possessions than an undomesticated animal. (Matthew 8:20)

Why did the Lord Jesus become poor? Paul startles us by telling us that He became poor in order that we might become rich. Have you thought about how rich the Lord has made you? We are so profoundly affected by the tumult we see in our country and on the international scene. What a terrible thing it would be to have to live today without the Lord, to live without His grace and without the anticipation of His coming. Would you like to do that, now that you have known Him? Would you like to give up all the joy, the peace, the sense of forgiveness, the daily lifting of the load of guilt? Would you give up the knowledge of His presence, give up that source of power available to you for whatever you need by simply asking for it? Would you give up a continual supply of joy, gladness and restoration? Would you want to give up the continual enrichment His presence adds to your life?

How rich knowing Jesus has made us! He became poor in order that we might be rich. When you think about that, how wrong it is to withhold those riches and gifts from those who are in need around us. How can we keep them only for ourselves? How can we not love others enough to tell them that there is wealth unimaginable just outside the gates. Tell them! Come to Jesus!!