

# GOD'S WORD

## JESUS WAS A STREET PERSON

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*"Poverty is definitely not a sign of Spiritual immaturity!"*

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**J**E稣 WAS a street Person, and He dumpster-dived. "Dumpster-dived?" That means, to raid dumpsters for food, those large square industrial garbage cans emptied by garbage trucks with forks on the front. So did His disciples. And that may be one of the very things that Jesus will (or has already) someday expect of us. Jesus said,

The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his Master.

*Matt. 6:40*

But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

*Matt. 20:22*

But where is the evidence that Jesus ever raided a garbage can? The Bible tells us of at least two incidents in which Jesus and His disciples picked up and ate other peoples' table scraps:

And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

*Matt. 14:19-20*

And He took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

*Matt. 15:36-38*

Did Christ have the scraps collected to feed to the ducks? Or, rather than lower Himself to eat it Himself (and His disciples), did He perhaps give it to the poor...? The question hardly needs to be asked! On other occasions, Jesus and His disciples had nothing more to eat than, 'grass seed,' the wheat or grain of the fields at the side of the road:

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and His disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels.

*Lu. 6:1 NIV*

And in defense of what He was doing, Jesus even gave His accusers the example of still another person who had had to do something similar! (Lu. 6:2-4)

Being a street person, Jesus slept in parks:

And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.

*Lu. 21:37*

And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His Head.

*Matt. 8:20*

Jesus and His disciples slept outside in the rain, snow, sun, wind, and whatever else was out there. Sure, the occasional person gave Jesus a bed for a night or two, or fed Him, or followed Him for a while to take care of His needs, but these were by far the exception. And that was only because Jesus had none without their charity of even the most basic comforts. Jesus and His disciples were street people. And some refuse to believe that Jesus could have been a street person! Or dumpster dived. Jesus Himself encountered this same problem when He told the disciples about His approaching crucifixion. Jesus' reply to that refusal to believe in Jesus' suffering death is exactly the same as His reply to disbelief in His suffering life:

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.  
 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.  
 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.  
 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.  
 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

*Jn. 16:22-26*

Peter showed, soon after, that, while he was willing to die for Christ (in single-handedly coming to the armed defense of his Master in the Garden at Christ's arrest) and to thus, "go out fighting," he was not willing to stay around, and live for his Master, with the suffering that was obviously so imminently to be his Master's. Christ and His disciples, and indeed so many other heroes of the Word of God have shown so dramatically that, while physical poverty is in no way a requirement, nor necessarily an indication, of spirituality, it is similarly in no way, in itself, an indication of spiritual poverty. On the contrary, our Master, Jesus, Who Is God Himself, and many of His greatest followers, from Elijah to John the Baptist, have worn the badge of poverty as a badge of honour, their poverty being because of their great spirituality!

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;  
 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:  
 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,  
 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.  
 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:  
 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:  
 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;  
 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

*Heb. 11:25-26, 32-38*

The Bible speaks of those who would preach otherwise:

Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness**: from such withdraw thyself.  
 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.  
 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.  
 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.  
 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.  
 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.  
 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

*I Tim. 6:5-11*