

1/16/05 **THE MESSAGE LUKE 4:18-19** (continued from 1/9/05)

Let's go back to the message here. Jesus is preaching to the POOR. This word for poor (ptochos) is the strongest word for poor. This word means cringing, beggar, completely destitute. This one cannot even earn daily bread as opposed to the poor who exist by daily means. THIS poor that Jesus is talking to know they are powerless. This is the same word, as blessed are the "poor in spirit" from the beatitudes. This word means physically or spiritually poor, or empty, bankrupt of their own resources. What if I lived every day, even hour, knowing I have no resource other than Him. He said that you know..."without me you can't do anything". (Joh 15:5) I am the vine; you [are] the branches. The one abiding in Me, and I in him, this one bears much fruit, because apart from Me you are not able to be doing anything. (Analytical Literal Translation). The Message says: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing." Just maybe the ones that see God, the ones that have anything accomplished in their lives are the ones who are "poor". I want to be that if He can accomplish and manifest Himself in my life. Again in Matthew 5:3, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - In the Message it reads: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule." Do you see that? The Kingdom of Heaven is for those who are spiritually poor that Jesus is preaching too. Do you remember what he said to the church at Laodicea? (Rev 3:17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: Then Jesus advises them to buy *gold refined by fire*. **By fire folks**. Not always comfortable but definitely pure. *White garments He offers them and salve for their eyes*. Jesus will not leave anything untouched in your life. He want to make you whole. But He ends this verse saying "He that has ears to hear, let him hear." That was really the problem with the **mood** when Jesus spoke. I'm not sure they didn't have ears, They just heard what they wanted to and could always point the finger somewhere else for their problems. Give me Jesus poverty over my or religions' spiritual riches... *anytime, all the time*.

1. Jesus, in what areas am I rich to the place where I do not depend upon you like I could?

2. When am I most likely to not be able to hear you?
3. What times in my life was I so desperate, and you stepped in and provided everything I needed?