

Interaction Paper #4

Poverty

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One sentence thesis statement

Not to be with the poor is to break God's order of creation, and to oppress the poor is the result of sin that has entered the world through man.

Summary

The author explains poverty in several ways. He talks his arguments, along with the argues of poverty made by these three scholars: Robert Chambers, John Friedman, and Jayakumar Christian. The author talks three reasons for the occurrence of poverty. First, poverty as an entanglement, second poverty as lack of access social power, and third as poverty as disempowerment. And he talks about the cause of poverty, who says that poverty has a cause, a physical cause, a social cause, and a mental cause. He speaks of his arguments through the arguments of Chambers, Friedman and Jayakumar. He looks at poverty from a theological and spiritual perspective, and says that the basic cause of poverty is spiritual.

Personal interaction of specific themes in reading with other resources and references

“Impoverishment and exploitation are not God’s will; but now there is hope, resurrection, life, change. The reign of God, which is the reign of justice, is at hand. We have often been told that the message contained in the Good News is that Christ came into the world to save us or free us from sin.”¹ Poverty and exploitation are not God's will, as the author of this quoted book, *Bible of the Oppressed*, says. This is the result of sin. Myers is saying the same thing. Poverty is basically a spiritual problem, the result of sin. I think the mission of God has given to me is to free the poor from sin first. This is not through our strength and power, but only through Jesus.

¹ Elsa Tames. *Bible of the Oppressed*, (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006), 68.

Questions for further engaging this topic

1. How can we help the poor spiritually?
2. How can we do practical ministry to help the poor?

References:

Tamez, Elsa. *Bible of the Oppressed*, (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006)