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#### Interaction Paper # 4 Poverty

“The poor or impoverished were made in the image of God.” Even though they are poverty-stricken and their poverty may be due to a simple lack of skills, poor education, or income inequality they were made equal in the sight of God. The Bible said, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God” (Luke 6:20) There are no monetary requirements to enter into the kingdom of God. They may be poor temporally but rich in spirit and work diligently to enter the kingdom of God. Ultimately, society simply labels individuals as being poor, powerless, vulnerable, and without a name yet God still created and loves them equally. As imperfect as they may be, God is still preparing a place for them in heaven.

In this article, had various opinions among Christians and non-Christians regarding poverty. According to Friedman at the University of California, people living in poverty lack access to social power because they need to be empowered. He believes each domain has a distinctive type of power and set of institutions such as social or economic power. I understand his concept. The poor are not given an opportunity to voice their opinion due to their status. Their lives are considered to be powerless and voiceless which automatically limits their choices in society. Individuals who are faced with such challenges are committed to working for salary reduction. They are stressed and hopeless and living without financial stability to survive day-to-day. Living in poverty must be depressing due to having limited education and opportunities in

society. Although the poor work hard and are resourceful they are not respected equally in society. They are labeled and looked down on in society, but God shall raise them up and wipe away their tears if they follow His commandments.

We are affected in one way or another by poverty and I believe it is the state's responsibility to provide the resource of assets to reduce their vulnerability that would contribute to them being powerless. The government should be held accountable for the citizen's poverty level. The government should eradicate poverty through education. Educating the less fortunate will foster self-understanding and improve their quality of life whereby their productivity will increase in society. Once they are educated the economy would be more stable and there would be social progress in improving their income. Once people are educated there will be a better economy and a decrease in poverty.

In conclusion, the system is broken but I pray and hope the Lord will teach some politicians how to fix the system. The Lord predicted this day would come which is why He cared for the poor and oppressed and gave them a land flowing with milk and honey. The poor were made in the image of God. They may be poor now but God promises them joy in the end as long as they mourn and repent of their sins. Our Great God does not discriminate. He loves us equally and accepts us all. When He returns for His chosen people only His divine power will matter. The Lord will not seek the rich or poor, He will be welcome the poor in spirit into the kingdom of heaven. There won't be any wealth requirement needed to enter the kingdom of heaven. Only holiness and righteousness will navigate us through heaven's gates.