

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

February 17, 2019

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26



Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*



If someone gave you a choice between this cool toy or this boring bag of groceries, which one would you choose? I would have to guess that because you already have food to eat, you'd choose this toy. But...what if you were hungry and didn't have much access to food and your family wasn't able to buy groceries? I bet you'd choose the bag of groceries.

In our Gospel lesson this morning from Luke, Jesus taught his disciples something very important for us to understand. Jesus says "God blesses you who are poor for the Kingdom of God will be given to you. The rich will one day be sad, because your happiness is just for now."

The poor are blessed and the rich people are in for some troubling times. Now, that doesn't make sense to us, does it? We think that if we have lots of money then we can buy whatever we want...all the toys, all the pizza, all the fancy cars, and then, we'll be happy. But, is that really true? When we reach the end of our lives here on earth, the Bible tells us that we get to be with God. Can we take those things with us?

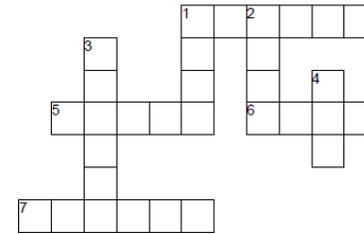
It's sort of like having a choice between the cool toy and the bag of groceries. We know we need food in order to survive, but that cool toy looks like a lot of fun. We know that believing in God is what our heart and our souls need to survive, but it would be great to have all of the money in the world. If this life was all that we had, then it makes sense to want to have all the money. But God offers us more than this life, right here, right now. God offers us the Kingdom of Heaven and God is preparing a place for us that is better and cooler than anything that money can buy. There is much more to life than chasing after money.

So, the next time that you think that being rich will get you all that you need to be happy, remember Jesus' words. "Blessed are the poor, for the Kingdom of God will be given to you."

Gracious God. Thank you for all the blessings that we have in our lives, for food, our homes, and our family. Help us to remember that real riches await us in your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

\*adapted from Barefoot in the Snow by Ruth Gilmore\*

*Crossword Puzzle*



HORIZONTAL

1. Something given or received in return for good behavior
5. The sound which expresses happiness or delight
6. Having very little money or few possessions
7. To have a desire or need for food

VERTICAL

1. Having a great amount of money
2. To shed tears
3. The home of God, the angels, and those who have been saved
4. A feeling of great happiness

JOY	RICH	HEAVEN	LAUGH
HUNGRY	POOR	REWARD	WEEP

**Activity:** Start a blessing jar or box. Give the children strips of paper and colorful pens/pencils on which to write their blessings. Fill a mason jar or a decorated shoe box with your blessings. These can be read together as a family anytime we need reminding of how much God loves us.

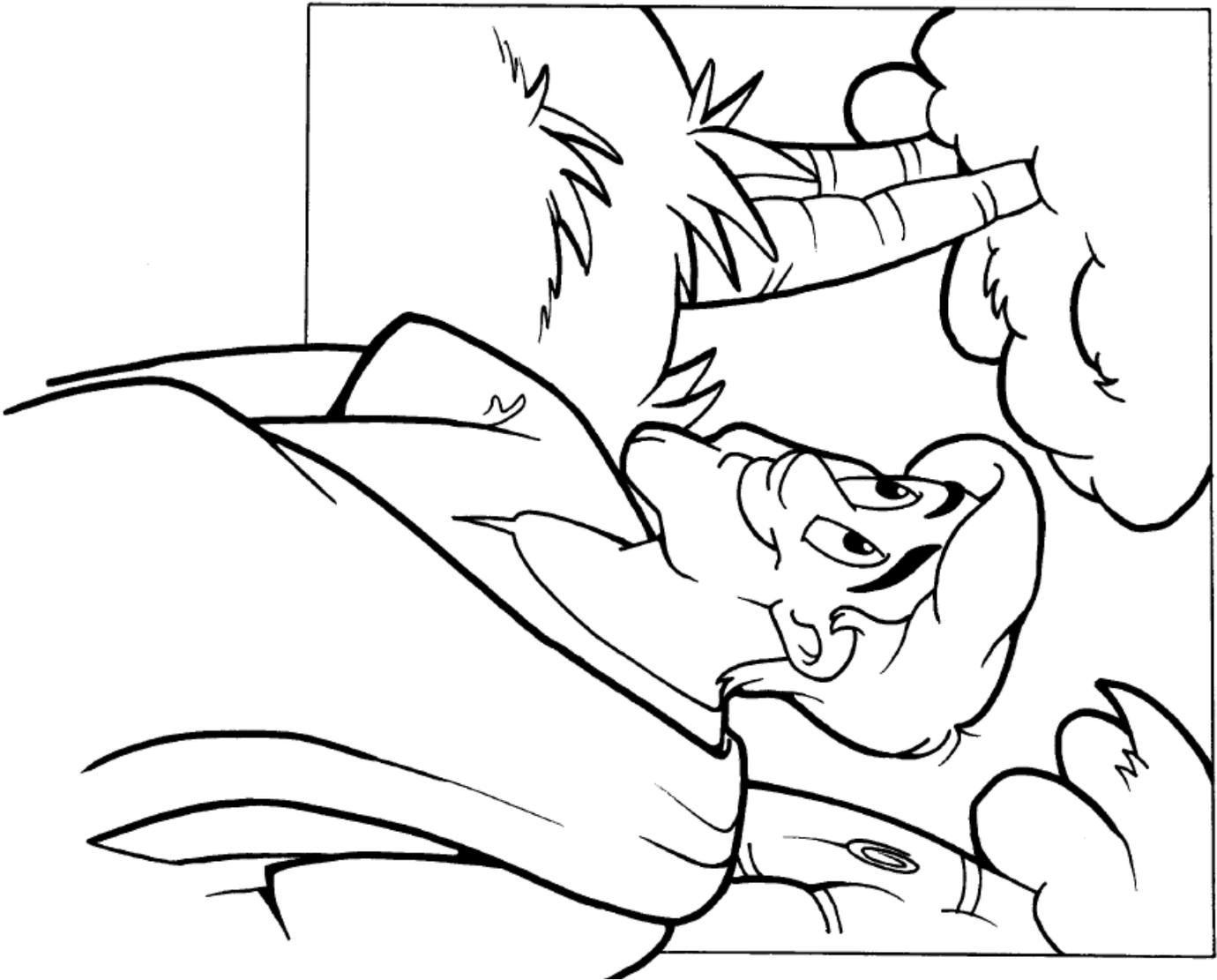
**Discussion Question:** Jesus says that the poor will always be with us. Discuss some ways that you and your family can help those who are less fortunate than you.

**Family Table Prayer for February:**

Our Loving God so kind and good,  
We thank you for our daily food.  
We thank you for your love and care.  
Be with us Lord, and hear our prayer. Amen.

**February Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.

# Coloring Page



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Luke 6:20