

Jeremiah 22:

- 13 Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness,
 - and his upper rooms by injustice;
 - who makes his neighbors work for nothing,
 - and does not give them their wages;
- 14 who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms,"
 - and who cuts out windows for it,
 - paneling it with cedar,
 - and painting it with vermilion.
- 15 Are you a king because you compete in cedar?
 - Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness?
 - Then it was well with him.
- 16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy;
 - then it was well.
 - Is not this to know me? says the LORD.
- 17 But your eyes and heart are only on your dishonest gain,
 - for shedding innocent blood,
 - and for practicing oppression and violence.

Matthew 4

- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”
- 10 Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

But for those who have seen Jesus through the new lens provided by liberation theology, a different picture begins to emerge.

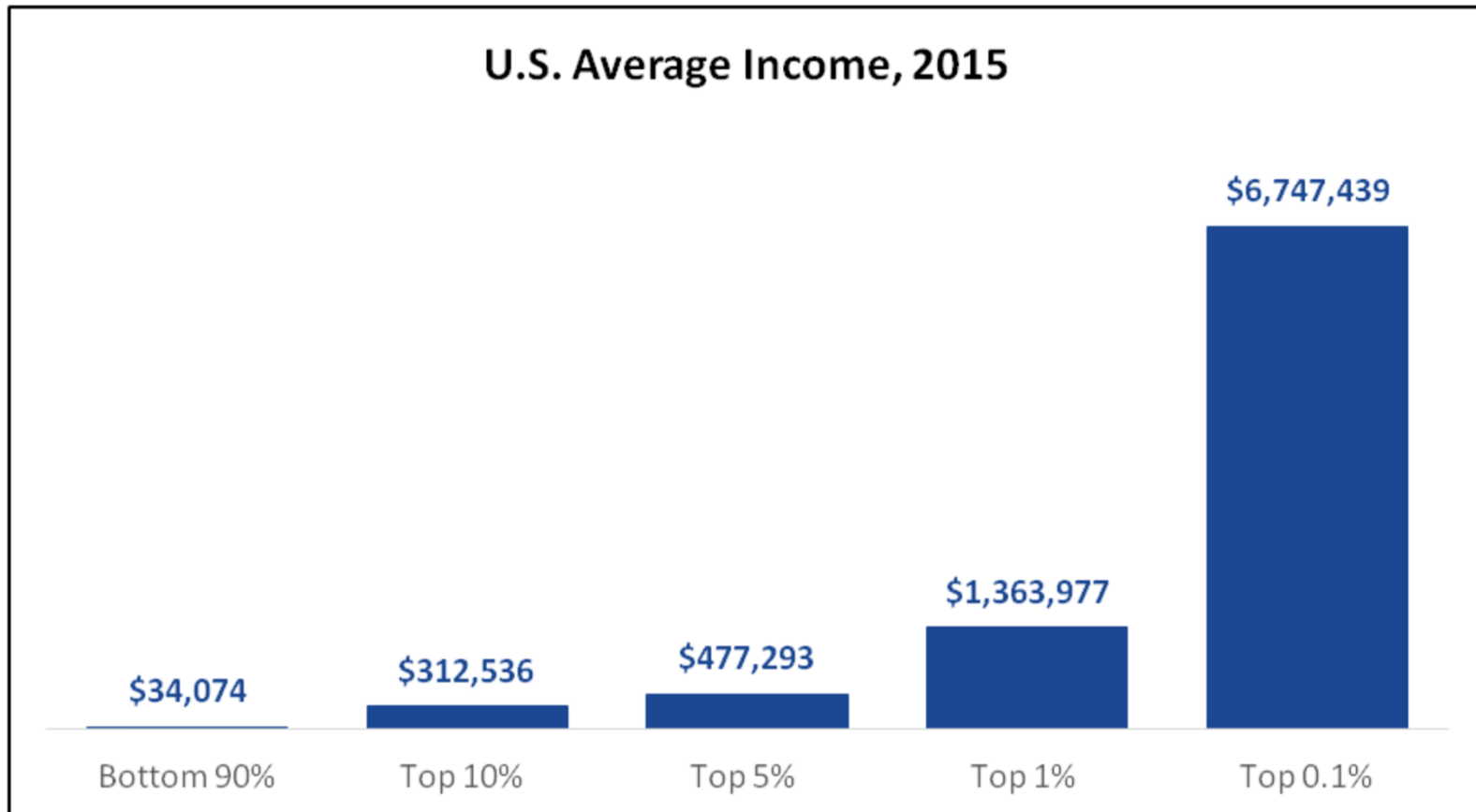
Jesus, in sharing our humanity, did not do so as a king, or a royal potentate or as part of the ruling class of society; he did so as one who was born into, and lived among, the poor himself. He identified with the outcast because he was one of them.....

So radical and unsettling was his message that he lasted not more than 3 years on the public scene...those with power perceived him as such a threat that they did away with him through a phony trial and a judicial murder. RMB

U.S. Distribution of Income

Household Income

U.S. Average Income, 2015



Income Rebalance

- Household Income for Bottom 90% = \$34,074 per year.
- Household Income for Top 10% = \$312,536.
- Reduce Top 10% by 30%: $\$312,536 \times .7 = \$218,775$.
- Difference is \$ 93,761.
- Increase Bottom 90% by $\$93,761/9 = \$10,418$.
- New Income is \$44,492, an increase of 30.5 %.

Affordable-housing advocates plead with County –

Coastal Point 2/22/19

“Can you create a pathway in our zoning for the construction of affordable, tiny houses or micro-apartments for the working poor? For our working homeless?”

“Housing has become inaccessible to the working poor, to the unbanked – these are folks that don’t have banks or credit cards, and their credit ratings are poor.”

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

As a persistent theme in the Hebrew Scriptures, and a central concern in Jesus' parables, the kingdom of God presents an alternative picture – God's vision of what the world could be – a world in which justice flourishes, compassion abounds, and concern for the poor is paramount. RMB

Deuteronomy 15

“7 If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor.

8 You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

9 Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, “The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,”

and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt.

10 Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

11 Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- If any child is hungry, rearrangement of the economy is called for. RMB
- Their own efforts at liberation cannot be indifferent to that proclaimed by growing minorities in rich nations. GG
- ...aware of the scope of misery and especially of the oppressive and alienating circumstances in which the great majority of humankind exists. This situation is offensive to mankind and therefore to God. Moreover, today people are more deeply aware both of the personal responsibility in this situation and the obstacles these conditions present to the complete fulfillment of all human beings, exploiters and exploited alike. GG

Machu Picchu



History of Peru

- 1525 Smallpox sweeps in to Peru from Panama attacking a population of 10 million.
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- 1620 Mainly due to infectious diseases as well as colonization, indigenous population reduced to 1 million.
- 1532 Francisco Pizarro arrives followed by a decade of forced colonization. 13,000 pounds of gold art sent to Spain, to be melted down. Over the next century 360,000 pounds of gold was sent to Spain, supporting that country. (\$6,870,000,000 at today's price of gold.)
- Today Peru has the worlds 39th largest economy. Per capita GDP is \$12,000. Average yearly wage is \$6,000. (U.S. is \$40,700)

Gustavo Gutierrez – “father of Liberation Theology”

- Born June 8, 1928: A mestizo in the Monserrat barrio of Lima, Peru.
- Church recognized his unusual theological talent and sent him for graduate work at Louvain(Belgium), Lyons(France) and the Gregorian (Italy).
- Ordained in 1959.
- Parish Priest in Rimac – a slum area in Lima.
- A Theology of Liberation is published in 1971.
- Legion of Honor from France in 1993 American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003.
- 90th birthday. Pope Francis thanks him for his contributions “to the church and humanity through your theological service and your preferential love for the poor and discarded of society”.
- Currently holds the John Cardinal O’Hara Professorship of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

Three core precepts of Gutierrez liberation theology

- Jesus is God and the Bible presents God's truth.
- God provides a preferential option for the poor.
- The poor and disadvantaged should interpret the Bible for themselves.

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown

- In the Bible, Christ is presented as the one who brings us liberation. Christ the Savior liberates from sin, which is the ultimate root of all disruption of friendship and of all injustice and oppression. GG

II. B.

Three core precepts of Gutierrez liberation theology

- The continued and growing population of poor and oppressed is due to social/economic/political structures.
- For each of us, personal salvation and advancement of the Kingdom of God will only be achieved through a dual path of spirituality and social action.
- One can only help the poor by becoming equal to them.

II.B.1 precept of Gutierrez liberation theology

- The continued and growing population of poor and oppressed is due to social/economic/political structures.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

“I ask no favor for my sex; all I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks.”

RBG – the film - 2018

Sarah Moore Grimke :

1792 – 1873 Abolitionist and Feminist

“I ask no favors for my sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All I ask of our brethren is, that they take their feet from off our necks, and permit us to stand upright on that ground which God designed us to occupy.”

“All history attests that man has subjected women to his will, used her as a means to promote his selfish gratification, to minister to his sensual pleasures, to be instrumental in promoting his comfort; but never has he desired to elevate her to that rank she was created to fill.”

“I am persuaded that the rights of women, like the rights of slaves, need only to be examined to be understood and asserted.”

“There has been a comparatively greater proportion of good queens, than of good kings.”

(1837)

II.B.2 precept of Gutierrez liberation theology

- For each of us, personal salvation and advancement of the Kingdom of God will only be achieved through a dual path of spirituality and social action.

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- One of the most widely used biblical passages in Latin America, Jeremiah 22:13 – 17 with the theme “to know God is to do Justice”. RMB
- We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us. Archbishop Oscar Romero
- If we want violence to stop, we have to go to the root of the disease. And here is the root; social injustice. Archbishop Oscar Romero
- The contemplative dimension is an essential element of the Christian life.
GG

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- The challenge is to be able to preserve the circular relationship between orthodoxy and orthopraxis and the nourishment of each by the other. GG
- But it is not enough that we be liberated from oppressive socio-economic structures; also needed is a personal transformation by which we live with profound inner freedom in the face of every kind of servitude, and this is the second level of liberation. GG
- Over untraveled paths and unforeseen shortcuts the experience of the neglected and abused peoples is becoming fruitful for the two great dimensions of Christian life: mysticism and human solidarity. GG
- A process that locates us at a point at which it is impossible to separate solidarity with the poor and prayer. This means that we are disciples of Christ, who is both God and a human being. GG

II.B.3 precept of Gutierrez liberation theology

- One can only help the poor by becoming equal to them.

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- The neighbor was the Samaritan who approached the wounded man and made him his neighbor. The neighbor, as has been said, is not the one I find on my path, but rather the one in whose path I place myself, the one I approach and actively seek. GG
- The disciples are said to be blessed, or happy, because they give life by giving food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, by clothing the naked, and visiting prisoners.....This is what St James calls “the law of the kingdom” (2:8). GG
- If there is no friendship with them and no sharing of the life of the poor, then there is no authentic commitment to liberation, because love only exists among equals. GG

II.C. Group Discussions

Matthew 20

- The Laborers in the Vineyard
- 1 “FOR the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’
- 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ 9 When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’
- 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- But now the poor are discovering that it cannot truly be God's will for most of God's people to suffer. God wills life and love and fullness for all and not just a few. And God wants our help to bring that about. GG
- A theology of liberation, then, will have to reply first of all to this question: "Is there any connection between constructing the world and saving it?". Thus our question is posed. The theology of liberation means establishing the relationship that exists between human emancipation – in the social, political, and economic orders – and the kingdom of God. GG
- Liberation theology is closely bound up with this new presence of those who in the past were always absent in our history. They have been gradually turning into active agents of their own destiny and beginning a resolute process that is changing the condition of the poor and oppressed of this world. GG

III. Week 3

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

A theme that is central to liberation theology and has now been widely accepted in the universal church: the preferential option for the poor. GG

God has the freshest and keenest memory of the least and most forgotten.
Bartolome de Las Cases

Gutierrez called the Beatitudes the Magna Carta of Liberation Theology

- Matthew 5
- The Beatitudes
- 1 WHEN Jesus [30] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
 - 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 - 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 - 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 - 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 - 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 - 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 - 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - 11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

U.S. Income Inequality

By DAVID LEONHARDT

AUG. 7, 2017

INCOME GROWTH
Over previous 34 years

