

God Uses Foolish Things

by Jackie Pullinger

God chooses to use the foolish things of the world to bring people to Christ and to shame the wise.

Duration: 1:10:12

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5, Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:28, James 1:22

Topics: "Foolish Things"

Description

In this video, the speaker discusses the importance of scoring a three, two, and four in a specific process. They mention the idea of a snow-covered holiday and walking on snow. The speaker also talks about adding a sketchy name and keeping it in the description. They emphasize the need to get into the world and make an impact on people's lives. The speaker questions how people feel when they die and encourages practicing and being present in the world. They mention Jesus and his role as a mediator and discuss the importance of trust in platforms.

Transcript

He had a picture of many people riding horses, and the horses are ready to go somewhere. And these people are ready to go on board a ship, and there's a chimney on the ship, which is burning because there's a great fire. And there is also, there is not yet, but there will be a captain to guide the ship.

And he believes this means that there are many people ready, already in this church, who are ready to go. And they are very happy to do that. And he believes that possibly the captain may be somebody, he doesn't look very clever.

1 Corinthians 1, verse 27. No, we start at 26. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called.

Not many of you were wise by human standards. Not many were influential. Not many were of noble birth.

I always remember that there was a queen of one of the Netherland countries who used to say, thank God for the M, because it doesn't say, not any were wise by human standards. Not any were influential. Not any were of noble birth.

It just says not many. So if you are clever, and you have been to college, if you have some influence in this world, and if you come from a good family, the good news is you can go to heaven. The other news is you're going to be in the minority.

However, most of us, when we are looking for leaders, or future leaders, will choose to invest in those that appear to be wise, or influential, or of good family. And we see here that God has actually chosen the other ones. I have some friends in UK, and they're always talking about the people they're praying for, you know.

And they say, oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if Ken came to Christ. He's got such influence. And, you know, because he's high in finances or something.

And I would say, yes, it would be great if he came to Christ. But God doesn't need his influence. You'll find that most churches or Christian organizations throughout the world will target students.

I mean, hopefully, because they want the students to know Christ. But often it's because they believe that they will have influential positions, and in the future they may be able to influence their countries. God doesn't need that.

He may use it. But he doesn't need it. He had his son born into the least tribe with the wrong education and none of the right qualifications.

Not of apparently noble birth, though he had good ancestors, but he was born illegitimate. God doesn't need what we think in order to reach the world for Christ. And I truly do believe that the quickest way of reaching the world with the good news of Jesus is through the poor.

I truly believe that. You know what's happening in China right now? It's probably the greatest revival that there's ever been in any country ever in the history of Christians. There may be up to 100 million who now know Jesus.

In mainland China, never mind what politics they have or freedom they don't have, the good news of Christ is spreading more rapidly than in any nation on the earth these days. And how is it done? Well, it sort of happens like this. Before people come to know Jesus, they already know that the possibility is actually being killed and the probability is prison.

In fact, we know groups of people who feel that they haven't been counted worthy because they've only been in prison for three years so far. This is true. So they've counted quite a cost when they come to Christ.

So you hear about 16-year-old girls or 17-year-olds. And they come to know Jesus and all they've got is a third of a page of a copied out bit of Bible. And they leave their home and in this home they only live on sweet potatoes and they carry a few sweet potatoes with them and they're a third of a page of Bible.

And if they take a bicycle with them and if they take one more jacket or one more clothes with them, they will not have it by the time they get past the next village. Because as they go, they leave their bit of Bible and their potatoes have gone and they've given their coat away and they've shared what they know of Him which isn't very much, but it's much. And two years later they come back to their village and their parents didn't know if they would ever see them again.

And they tell them of the hundreds, thousands, the villages that have heard the word of Christ turn to Him, the Holy Spirit come, the government officials have come to the Lord, it's spread to the next village and the next. And the girls walk because they've got no bicycle anymore. Two years later they come back, poor, yet making money rich, dying and yet we live on.

That's why revival's happening in China. And they've never been to a seminar. They've never been to a worship service.

Except what they do in their family. They don't have hymn books, they sing scriptures. But they give everything they have away.

And there was one man that I met. And when I met him, his eyesight is very poor. But his face was shining.

And I asked him what happened. And what happened was that he was in the streets telling about Jesus. And he was told not to do this.

But he said, I cannot but speak about my Lord. So he went on speaking and they put him in prison. And I have many friends who've been in prison or who are there now or who have disappeared.

Many. And so he ended up in prison and they put him in a solitary cell which was like a pigsty. It just had a dirt floor.

And he was in there for over a year in the dark. And they just threw his food in on the floor and that was also where he went to the bathroom. And so he ate off the floor which was his toilet.

And when they finally released him, his eyes had suffered very greatly because of the dark. And when they let him out, he went to a certain village. And, you know, he's just a very ordinary looking man.

He doesn't know how to preach a sermon or anything, you know. He just knows Jesus. And he spent his time in prison talking to Jesus, you know, and singing a bit.

And when he came out of prison, he was so shiny that when he walked down the street of the village and the city, people turned to Christ. He didn't even open his mouth. And I said to him, Will they arrest you again? And he laughed.

And he said, They regret arresting me before. Because this happened so many times. Those that have gone into prison come out so shiny, even if their bodies are broken, even if their eyes are poor.

And I met a blind woman who'd been in prison for 23 years, Swang Wing To's wife. And he was very sick, and he'd been in prison for 27 years, apart from his wife, not knowing if she was alive. But his eyes and his face, he sang the song in English and Chinese, four verses, all the way, my Savior leads me.

And his eyes were shining, and he was laughing. He didn't think it was hard. And when they asked him, What was it like in there all those years? He said, Oh, it was a honeymoon with Jesus.

So you see, you think it sounds hard, but it's not. God hasn't chosen a harder way for some people. It's not true.

Sometimes people say, Oh, you know, poor Jackie, she's had to live the cross. No. Why would you think my life's harder than yours? It's probably the other way around.

One man's lot is no harder than another's. God's not like that. Will he not give grace for whatever it is that he's chosen us for, whatever that is? The difficult thing in this world is not doing what he says.

And then you get stuck up by a whale or something. You know, you might as well. That's how China is experiencing revival.

No visual aids. No life changing tapes. No video of the month for Christian magazines.

Just a few people who aren't very educated, without microphones, who love their lives not unto death. That's it. God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.

I went to England a few years ago with one of our girls. Her name is Afan. And, well, in the eyes of the world, and sometimes in mine, I'm sorry to tell you, she's foolish.

I mean, she doesn't know how to do things, you know. She really doesn't know how to do things. She doesn't know how to behave in company.

And she's not tactful. She's loud. Spiritually, she's very sensitive.

Naturally, she's awful to be around. And I took her on this ministry trip to England. And we were in a... It was for ministers.

Well, she gets up, you see, and all our guys, I tell them, wherever you must prophesy, wherever you go. This is biblical, so get up and prophesy. So she got up and did her bit.

And I couldn't translate her bit, you know, because she couldn't speak any English. And she said, there's something, something, something has come between us and God. And I couldn't get what it was.

So I got her face out of the mic, because she was shouting Chinese into it. And I didn't think the pastors would understand that. And I said to her, out of the mic, what do you mean? And she grabbed the mic and said loudly, you know, you know.

And I said, what do you mean? What? She said, you know, you know. And I'm sweating by this time, you know, because the smooth prophecy is not going well. Then she grabbed the scarf around my neck.

And she goes, you know. And I thought, she's trying to strangle me in the middle. You know, she says.

And this went on for a few minutes. And finally I understood what she was saying. It was just one of those difficult Chinese words.

And what she was saying was, there is a veil in between us and the Lord. And when the veil is taken away, so, oh good, I got it. But this was very embarrassing, you know, because we've done this sort of loud, embarrassing demonstration in front of all the pastors.

But she's always like that. She's always like that. She was on drugs for how many years, I can't think.

And most of our women drug addicts, along with their addiction, have had to do many other things to get money for their drugs. And she was very, although she's still strange in the natural, she's very much changed from what she was. And after the meeting with the pastors, we invited the Holy Spirit to come.

And this is a bunch of pastors who had not been very receptive historically to the Spirit. Up this girl goes. She lays her hands on each pastor.

And God gives her one English word for each one. She doesn't speak English. It was the word.

One by one they cracked up, fell down, and were visited mightily by the Holy Spirit, which had never happened to them before. And I just stood there in amazement. And I think, you know, we really think that it's our preaching that does it.

It's not. It's the foolish things of the Lord. Now, when you work with the poor, you'll begin to understand this.

Because the way the poor hear things is different from the way you hear things. The poor will be able to hear the Gospel very much more quickly than your kind of person. Because they can hear spiritually.

It's called, as in the Psalms, deep to deep. And I'll explain sort of how it happens. It's very amazing, this.

You see, in the West we have been trained to approach people's minds. And somehow we think that we could convince somebody about Christ, which you can't do. Nobody comes to Christ through the mind.

Though, having come to Christ, our minds may then be changed. But we hear spiritually. And I was in Japan once, and I knew that historically it was very hard for the Japanese to hear the Gospel.

So I said to the Lord, please, will you speak to them? Because I don't think I can convince the Japanese. And I was at one of these awful preaches, you know, where they make people eat dinner first, which is not a good idea. Because, you know, everybody's going... So there was this big fat green grocer there, a fruit seller, and he went to sleep after I'd started for about half a minute he was asleep.

He slept through the whole thing. And then he woke up. And he went up to somebody.

This was after about half an hour. He went up to somebody and he said, I have to accept Christ now. And this is what had happened.

He'd listened to me for 30 seconds and he thought, oh, I don't need to hear that. And he went to sleep. And while he was asleep, Jesus came to him and said, you need to believe in me now.

So he woke up and he said, I need to believe in Jesus now. Now, this is what it means when it says God is pleased to use the foolishness of preaching. People aren't saved because of the sermon.

They're saved despite it. You know, this is true. When you hear the average testimony, you'll hear nearly every single person will say, I don't know what the preacher was saying, but I found myself walking forward or tears running down my cheeks.

Now, we think that we have to convince and make four points, which will help. Or maybe it's three points here. But of course, the poor man cannot get your points.

He doesn't know why there should be three. In any way, you can't do three A's in Chinese. But he can hear spiritual things.

He is foolish in the eyes of the world, but he can hear spiritually. I'll tell you how it works. This is what we do in our addicts' meetings.

This is very exciting. And you'll begin to see how unfair the whole thing is. In our addicts' meetings, nearly all of our people come to Christ in five minutes.

They walk in the door, and of course they've come to meet Him. But because their friend has changed, they want to know Jesus too. So it usually happens something like this.

They walk down the street. And addicts are very thin, and they've bumped into a fat person. And they say, Why are you so fat? And the fat man says, Jesus.

And the... Just a cultural thing. And the thin man says, OK, I'll have Him. Because they can't get fat, you see.

And... Because they have to take drugs. And so they say, OK, where do I meet Him? And the fat man says, He's in the walled city on Wednesdays and Saturdays. So they would come into the walled city, and they come to the door, and they say, OK, where is He? And one of our guys, like these three brothers here, will introduce them to Christ.

This usually takes five minutes. We don't explain anything first, by the way. There's no point in explaining Christ.

It's better they could meet Him. And so we pray with them immediately. No explanation.

I will not let people preach at them. Their minds are blown. But their spirit is calling.

So no preaching. We pray with them. And, of course, as we pray with them, Jesus comes and touches them.

And then we say, Will you believe He's God's Son? They say yes. They've never heard that before, but they say yes. They don't ever so believe, but they want to come and live with us.

So they say yes. And... Which is all right, I think. And then we say, Well, will you believe He died on the cross for you? They've never heard that before.

But they say yes, because they want to come and live with us. They trust us, you see. Which is how they accept Him so quickly.

And then we say, You know, He rose again, and they can understand that. And then we pray with them. Then we say, Will you tell Him you'd like to follow Him? And they say yes.

We haven't talked much about sin yet, by the way. And then we say, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and He'll give you new words to help you speak. So, this is how they come to Christ.

And it usually takes about 3 minutes, or 30 years. You see, what I'm talking about is an unfair bit. Nowadays, it takes 3 minutes.

But it's because they trust us, you see. They know that we will share our house, and our lunch, and our nights, and our free time. That's why they come to our Jesus.

So, it looks very quick. But anyway, after they've come to Christ, we then teach them to prophesy. So, they've just come to know Him, and we say, Okay, what did you hear Him say? And then they'll tell you.

They don't know it's prophecy. And then we get them to pray for the sick. They're still on drugs, by the way.

So, then, the most fun bit is the Bible study. Now, you see, their minds are still blown. Understand this.

We're not operating in the mind. We're operating spiritually at this point. We will work on the mind later.

But right now, we're doing spiritual things. Now, this is very easy with the poor. And I never teach them Bible.

Because I trust that as they've come to life through the Holy Spirit, they can hear. So, I get them to teach me Bible. So, anyway, they go to sleep in a sermon, because they've got a 20-year drug addict habit, and they're probably injecting six times a day.

So, we go through gospel stories. We only ever do gospels at this point. I will not allow people to teach epistles.

So, they're completely new Christians, and I want them to meet Jesus like people met Him. So, we do parables or miracles only. These are addicts' meetings.

We have them twice a week. And this is to tell you that these people are foolish. Most of them have not been to school, but they can hear deep and profound things.

I'll give you two illustrations. We always do the parable of the man who found the treasure in the field and sold everything. And we do this twice a year.

And I only let people who've known Christ less than four weeks answer the questions. And I say to them, Okay, who is the one who sold everything he had? And who is the treasure? Okay, now they're all on drugs still. One hundred percent of the time they will answer this way, Jesus sold everything he had and we are the treasure.

Which, of course, is theologically correct in case you thought you could buy Christ. But you've never heard it that way around, have you? Because a man taught it to you. They hear from the Spirit of God, and they know that he bought us.

They know that. Then another time we were doing the resurrection appearances, Jesus. And there was this man who'd come to know Jesus on a Wednesday.

And the awful thing is, when they've come to know Christ, they bring their friends. And that's terrible. I mean, it is.

You might not think it's awful, but it means we've got to find more places for them to sleep. We can't leave them outside. So he bought his friend.

So one of them has been a Christian three days, and the second one's been a Christian half an hour. And we were doing the resurrection appearance of Jesus when he appeared to his disciples in the room. Well, they've read the thing out.

And then I said, OK, how'd he get into the room? Well, one of them looked there, and he said, Oh, he didn't get in through the door. It's locked. He got in through the wall.

I said, OK, how'd he get in through the wall? Well, the half an hour one said, He's a ghost. And the three-day one says, No, he's not a ghost. On Wednesday we did that he'd got flesh and bones.

OK, how'd he get in through the wall? Well, we've got, by the way, about 80 addicts who've come to Christ, all waiting to come and live with us, and they're all on the edge of their seats. How'd he get in through the wall if he's got a body? Well, the three-day one thought for a bit, and then he said, Fat lit! Which means he's got magic power. I said, OK.

Did he always have fat lit? Did he always have this magic power? And he said, Yeah. He always had it. But before he died, he never used it on himself.

And I said, Do we get fat lit? He said, Yeah. We get it when we believe in Jesus. He says, For now it happens in our hearts.

Later it'll happen in our body. Well, I think that's quite good for three days. But he didn't get it from theological school.

In fact, I don't think he'd been to school probably for more than two years in his whole life. It's a different wisdom. It's God's secret wisdom, which is revealed to those who may be foolish men, to confound the wise.

God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the strong. I walked down the street one day and met the big gang leader. And he... I'd been in Hong Kong that time, I guess, about eight years.

And some of his former gang members had come to Christ. And he couldn't understand it. He couldn't understand why he used to control about 20,000 people.

And he said to me, Look, I'd really like to give you some money. I see you've got this miserable little room. And it was a miserable room.

It was sort of eight feet by 12, just big enough for a ping-pong table. But it was filled with God's glory. I'm so glad nobody gave us the bigger one.

Now I am. He looked at it, and you see, it was everything that was wrong. He said, You ought to be having a big room, which is properly painted, with proper chairs.

And all I can see you've got is this miserable place. I'll give you money. And I said to him, I don't want your money.

I want you. He couldn't understand how he had all this power. And I had nothing.

This is God's way, you see, for me anyway, of winning the world. People think it's the other way around. That somehow if you've got more money, you could have a better ministry.

Well, we use money occasionally. But not instead of the heart. And God, in his mercy, chose to use the fact that we hadn't got anything to preach the gospel to the big gangster.

That's how he came to Christ. Naturally, we couldn't compete with him. But we had something which was confounding.

God's chosen the lowly things of the world to nullify the things that are. Once there was a young man who lived with us. And every time he would go on a holiday, he took drugs again.

Now, when we live with drug addicts, I learned many things. I used to be quite judgmental. I would think, how could somebody who knows Christ hit someone the next day? Or how could they steal something again? Or how could they stick a needle in their arm a week after knowing Jesus? That didn't last very long.

I didn't think like that very long. Because, you see, I started to look at myself. And I noticed that there were many things in me which hadn't changed.

It was just that with them it shows. And this guy, every time he took a holiday, took heroin. And every time he came back, he lied.

And I knew he lied. Apart from that, he was fine. He lived with us and he loved worshipping and he was very good at prophesying.

It was just that he took heroin every holiday. And I thought, well, I don't think I can lock him up forever, you know. This is, I mean, I have to let him go sometime.

And we tried everything. We did Bible study. And that didn't work.

We did long prayer. That didn't work. I just couldn't get to the bottom of it.

And so one day, a friend was with us. And we were persevering to try and find out what it was. And he had a picture of some water.

And I said to this guy, does this mean anything to you? And he said, yes. When I was young, my father told us not to go swimming in a reservoir. But I went with my younger brother.

And by mistake, my younger brother fell in. And he didn't come up for ages. And finally he came up.

And I got him out of the water. And I told my younger brother, don't tell Daddy. Don't tell Daddy.

But he went home and he told my father. And my father beat me very badly. And then he put me out of the door.

The doors in Hong Kong have iron gates against robbers. And he banged on the door. And he banged on the door.

And he said, let me in, let me in, let me in. And he was never allowed to live at home again. And once a month, he was allowed to eat at home.

Because his mother was a servant in a Westerner's house. And he was allowed to come for a meal. But he was not allowed to stay at home again.

And what had happened was that as he went out, being severely rejected, this great hurt in him meant that a spirit of loneliness came and dwelt in him. Which meant that later, even though he came to know Christ, every time he went out on a holiday, the spirit said to him, you're out again. This is what you must do to make yourself feel better.

You must take drugs. So that was very good. Because once he knew what it was, we addressed the spirit.

And it was very satisfactory. You know, it was one of those real good quick ones. He went into the waste paper basket, and that was good.

And then we had a picture of a light shining on his family. And we believed that he would lead his family to Christ. And so it was very distressing when we heard two days later that his father had died in Canada.

The whole family had emigrated without him. They left him behind when he was in prison, and he came out to find it gone. So we managed to get him a special visa for Canada to attend the funeral.

And I told him what to do. I said, you mustn't take part in the Buddhist funeral. This is how you must act with your family.

And two weeks later, he came back off the plane. And I said, well, how was the funeral? And he said, it wasn't a Buddhist funeral. He said his father was in a nursing home.

And the day before he died, he suddenly said, I must have a pastor. I must have a pastor. And the pastor came to see him.

And he said to the pastor, I want to receive Jesus and be baptized. And that was exactly the moment that our man, after he had been delivered of the spirit, was praying for his father and saying, Father, I forgive you. And after that, he did bring his whole family to Christ.

And he came back to Hong Kong. And because he's only had a little education. And this is what he did.

He got himself a pair of glasses. He doesn't need to wear glasses, you know. He just thought they looked smart.

And so he wore these glasses, and he got himself a briefcase. There's nothing in it. And he would go to court.

And because we're always having to go to court, and mostly what we do in court is pray. We pray for the people in court. And so he began to be our representative.

These three guys I've brought with me, they spent half their life in court for other people and in prison. They all work with our new addict. And so he used to speak for us.

He used to speak to the judge. And then after a bit, all the probation officers started calling him and saying, we'd like to talk about our client. And can we have your advice? And he was asked to address probation officers and to train the officers.

And this guy's done two years of school. And I went to visit someone in a hospital once. And the social worker came up.

And he looked at me. And I was just wearing jeans and things, and he didn't bother to talk to me. And he looked at this guy, and he said, oh, Mr. Kwan, I'd like to ask your advice.

And I laughed. I thought, that's great. You know, this stupid Hong Kong education system would mean that if this guy wanted to go back to the beginning, he would have to do 12 more years of school before he could even get into a college, which would qualify him for another college, which would qualify him to be a probation officer.

And I thought, that's just like God, isn't it? You know, he's chosen the foolish. And in his own way, he will lift up a man so that the government come to him for advice. It's the way it works in the kingdom.

He's chosen the lowly things of the world to nullify the things that are. He's chosen the despised things to nullify the things that are. This is my favorite man coming up.

There was a young man once who came to me, and he said, Miss Poon, I've got this brother who's slipping in the streets, and I've tried to preach the gospel to him, but he won't listen. And I said, what do you mean, preach the gospel? And he said, I read the Bible to him in the streets. And I said to him, how rude you are.

That's awful of you to do that. Why should he listen to you reading the Bible to him in the streets? You live in a house and he doesn't. And you don't even let him know where you live.

And he can't read anyway. We'll ask him to tea. And so I chose the nicest restaurant I could.

And with, you know, real nice white tablecloths and things. And I said to him, go bring your brother, tell him we ask him to tea. And I took a fat uncle with me.

And this fat uncle had been a police sergeant. That was where he started to take drugs, by the way. And then he was living with us.

And so I'm sitting there with fat uncle. And in comes my friend with his very thin street cleaver brother. And he comes in and he's really slimy.

You know, he's got sores all over him. Just like Job, you know. And he came in and he looked at me and he looked at the fat uncle.

And he pointed at the fat uncle and he said, You! And the fat uncle pointed at him and said, You! And it turned out they'd been in prison together. And so up comes this thin one and he says, Why you say fat? And the fat one says, Jesus. And the thin one says, Okay, I'll take him.

So we prayed over the teapot. And so we came to Christ, that's how. And tongues over the teapot, too.

By the way, it's really easy then. It's much harder if you make it two-step. And much harder.

So then I said to Lau Leung, his name was Lau Leung, How many convictions have you got? He said, 78. And next time it'll be 79. There was one more.

He got arrested that day for something he hadn't done. It was always happening. 50% of his cases were framed.

But after that he came to live with us. He's such a sweet man. I love him very much.

But he had very long toenails. For several years he still had toenails. They're about three inches long.

And so, you know, he's got this new heart, but he's got these old toes. And so I said, Ask the brothers, you know. You ask him why he's got these toenails.

And he said, I've got to have toenails like that because I've got to gouge people when they steal things in the night. Well, that's logical. I mean, if you sleep on the streets, you need to gouge people in the night,

you know.

So, he still had long toenails and he wouldn't cut them. You see, he didn't trust our brothers. Because all our brothers come from the same backgrounds.

Why should he trust them? You know, he's got a history of mistrust. And I often thought of him. And I thought, Your toenails show.

Mine don't. Or at least I think they don't. Not much difference between us.

And later he got sick. He got cancer. But when we worshipped, he was always the first to stand.

And he used to jog around the neighboring basketball court every morning. He always stood. And he would come to see me and he said, The doctors have no hope for me.

But he said, I'm putting all my trust in my Jesus. And then he came and he told me, You know, sometimes at night, I can't sleep. And he said, Jesus comes into my room.

And we sit. And I tell him all about you. And I never had anybody that prayed for me like that.

You know, he couldn't even read the Bible. He can't read a songbook. But he spent all his remaining days talking to Jesus about me.

Then he died. And I very much miss him. He was one that they say is not.

He was despised. He was kicked. He needed to gouge.

He spent half his life being arrested for things he hadn't done. But I think Jesus allowed him to go quick because he loved him so much. He's chosen the despised things to nullify the things that are.

He has chosen the things that are not to nullify the things that are. There was a lady who was a prostitute when she was raped when she was 17 by her boyfriend. Her mother had committed suicide.

Her father was sleeping with her aunt. Her aunt was sleeping with another lady. Her father was sleeping with every combination you can think of she saw through a keyhole.

And then she was thrown out of the family. She became a prostitute. She spent 50 years as a prostitute.

Imagine still working when you're 60-something. And she ended up in the walled city which is the lowest, you know. Don't get paid much there.

And she didn't exist. She didn't have an identity card. So she wasn't anyone, you see.

And two of the prostitutes in the brothel with her were murdered. One of them was pregnant. And wouldn't sleep with a man.

So they put a pipe down her. A water and filled her up. And this poor lady, her name was Elfride.

She was so afraid this would happen to her. She used to pull me when I walked down the streets. And she used to say, Oh please, oh please let me live in your house.

Because she heard that we had all these people. But how can you put somebody who's been a prostitute for 50 years, how could you put them in with all these gangsters who are coming off drugs, you know. I didn't know any Christians who were willing to share their homes with just converted prostitutes.

There aren't many. And the churches don't take them. Who does? I used to try very hard not to pass her by.

In case she became a Christian. Now I know that's shocking. But you see I thought if she became a Christian I couldn't leave her there.

I mean, could I? Except I couldn't resist it one day. So we found her a little room. It was about five foot long.

And two and a half feet wide. But she's very small. And we prayed with her.

At that time she hadn't eaten for a long time. Her payment for her services was three injections in her back. Daily.

Heroin injections because she'd used up all the veins in her arms and legs. And she slowly got healed. I mean slowly.

I wondered about inner healing, you know. Every time we worshipped she cried. I mean we prayed about everything we could think of for a couple of years.

And I thought, God, how long does this have to take? If we really have to go through every awful thing she's been through it'll take forever. How long? I don't know. I don't really have an answer about how long.

Except I suppose it's as long as it hurts. And then one day we took her to another old people's home. It was run by some nuns.

And she looked at them and she said, this is awful. They don't love them here like I was loved. People don't help them.

They don't wash them. So she started to go. It was mainly that that healed her.

It was interesting. She used to go and wash their hair. She used to go and take the vegetables.

And she used to go and pray with them. She couldn't read either. But she had received very much.

And she gave very much. Later on she got married. A lot of in bridal white.

It was quite funny. Of course. She didn't quite get it spiritually though.

Because later on there was another lady that got married. Now Elfrida had been 60 something when she got married in bridal white. And this other lady was 50 something.

And she said to Elfrida, can I borrow your dress? And Elfrida said, yes. And then she came to me and she said, I said yes. But of course she can't.

She'd been married before. It was really nice though. She had all her life again.

She sort of behaved like a teenager on her wedding day. Anyway, she's in heaven now. This is our funny lot.

Poor in the eyes of the world. But hasn't God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith? And to inherit the kingdom he promised to those who love him? When Jesus announced this bird of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me the first thing he was anointed for was to preach good news to the poor. This is the power of the Holy Spirit is first to preach good news to the poor.

I don't know if you know any longer what poor and rich is. If you'll go for the poor they don't need training in evangelism. It's very easy for them to share what they have.

I've told you about my friend. One description of evangelism is one poor man telling another poor man where to find bread. And Gong Yun may share his story tomorrow.

He's the poor one. He was the one we had most of the problem getting in here because he looks real nice but it's a pretty bad lot of records he's got there. But since he's come to Christ he's led 30 of his family members to Jesus.

And the family members do pretty well too. You see, he's so full of hope now. He doesn't need training to preach the gospel.

They just go share. In fact, usually it's the other way around. People come and say, what have you got? Or what's happened to you? They can see so quickly.

And I used to wonder when I walked down the wall city streets and you could see in a tin shack you could see these guys who are 14 and their girlfriends are prostituting themselves when they're 14 in order to get enough money to support their boyfriends' habit. And I used to look at, you could see a hundred at a time in these drug dens and I used to think, God, this is not fair. Why? Am I born in a quite nice house? Is it quite nice family? There's no question of whether I go to school or not.

And we even have a garden. Why are they born here? You know, they haven't even really had a choice let alone made a bad one. And this is... Why? How can... God, why? And I used to wonder.

I got the answer. We're nearly through, but you could look this up. This is in Psalm 102.

It's a great psalm. It's a psalm about those in distress who cannot sleep and cannot eat and who are lonely. Verse 13, You will arise and have compassion.

The appointed time has come. Verse 17, He will respond to the prayer of the destitute. He will not despise their plea.

And this is the great one. Let this be written for a future generation that a people not yet created may praise the Lord. The Lord looked down from His sanctuary on high.

From heaven He viewed the earth to hear the groans of the prisoners and to release those condemned to death. So the name of the Lord will be declared in Zion and His praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the Lord. What happens when the poor cry out is the Lord hears them.

And when He hears them He sends someone because it always happens like this. Whenever a destitute man cries out the Lord puts an answering answer in someone else's heart. This is how it works.

And sends them. And so these poor people because of their destitution, because of their shame, because of their poverty, because of their degradation, because of their hunger, they cried out. And the Lord heard them.

And they met Him. And they were set free. And they became so famous that people not yet born would hear the gospel through them.

Then you see everything is the other way around. Then you see the rich say I came to Christ because of this poor man. And this is what's happening in Hong Kong.

In our church we have the destitute and the very well off. Not many in the middle. There's a pretty hard middle class actually.

Problem with middle classes. They're trying to go up. But we have a factory owner who's a very top factory owner in Hong Kong.

And he's been a Christian for years. And you know he had a proper Bible study every week with proper businessmen, you know. And it was all well conducted.

And the wife made cakes and things. And he came to see us. And he and his wife actually said we wish we had been drug addicts.

Because we don't love the Lord like your boys. They were jealous. You see, many, many top people in Hong Kong have come to know Christ.

Because when you're a top person and you see the riches that the poor have found in Him then you know you're poor. And that's how it works. We don't go for the rich but they come in by themselves.

That's the spin off. When people say to me, what about the rich? Well, that's fine if you're called to them. But we call to the poor and the rich come in by themselves realizing their poverty.

It's the great spin off. And so I find grossly unfairly if you will waste your life on one poor man whether he comes to Christ or not. This is what we did for years and years and years in the walled city.

The ministry goes backwards. We can't count our numbers. People who testify in church one day get arrested the next week.

We have five people living in our house. The next week they all run away. At the end of the year what have you got to show? Nothing.

Repeatedly it's like this. And if you will work with the poor I bless you to know it will be like this. Everyone else will count their results.

And you've just got a broken heart. Well, if so, well done. You're getting on all right.

But a very odd thing happened. For most of my life it's gone backwards. Couldn't count.

And the ones that you look upon and you say he'd make a good future leader. Even he goes back. And then somewhere in the middle of it all I don't know quite how it worked but you know sort of round about round about after 20 years or so sort of something turned round.

Or did it? I don't know. But people stayed and then more stayed and then more stayed and what we can visibly count now are thousands. But I don't think God counts like that.

And they tore the World City down a couple of years ago. And before they tore the World City down nearly every newsreel National Geographic and Canada and Australia and all kinds of people they all came to make films of World City. Not Christians.

Non-Christians. And they all came to make films of World City because it was an interesting place. And we were in the mall.

You see we don't have to put out our publicity material. They do it. And they do it real good.

Because they film what they see. And in the middle of the World City this room which we used to meet in with all the drug addicts from all over Hong Kong it got full of people who came in to say OK where's Jesus? And we worshipped twice a week in the rooms full of glory and these reporters and these photographers used to come in and the Holy Spirit used to stop them at the entrance. They just didn't know what they were seeing.

And people are always saying to me Oh I saw your video in Canada or something I've no idea what they're talking about. Because I've not seen any of them. But I get letters from people who say I was watching in Australia your video.

I don't know what they saw but and while I was watching I began to speak in tongues and I came off drugs. And this, I've got many letters like this and I think that's really nice but you know, nothing to do with me. But somehow I got in on it.

That's how it happened. You see, if you minister to one little man Christ becomes very famous a long way off. And the great thing about this is it doesn't go on a tally sheet as Jackie Pullinger Ministries Inc.

It's the kingdom of God. It's not counted to me. It's His kingdom.

It's not my ministry growing, I do it anyway. But it's great that there's a sort of unfair increase. But that's how it happened.

And maybe tomorrow, I won't have time now maybe tomorrow I'll tell you another real unfair story. You know, about how a whole prison in England came to the Lord. Because somebody read a story about us in Hong Kong and I think, oh, that's really great but you know, nothing to do with me.

But somehow we were in it. That's what'll happen if you love one poor man like Jesus loved you. That's it.

Though it's the other way around. Those who were poor are the chosen ones. And God, even though I don't believe it was His plan may have allowed it to be so that they were poor and destitute so that they can call on Him.

And our brothers often say we feel really sorry for the rich people in Hong Kong living in proper houses with cars and things because we were so desperate. We had to turn to Christ. And those poor rich people may never know that.

Do you see why? Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall inherit the earth. Would you stand, please? Most of the people in the world who've not yet heard about Jesus are physically poor. Now I think it's very

unlikely that you're going to help those poor prostitutes in Thailand.

There are only ten, by the way. And they only do it because their village is hungry and because their mothers sent them to do it. There are thousands of them.

Actually hundreds of thousands. I think it's very unlikely you'll go to them unless you'll go here first. Somehow.

I can tell you about the slaves in India. They're slaves. They're five.

Five years old. Even without hearing the gospel people are dying of hunger. It's not an option for us.

The majority of those who have yet to hear the gospel are physically hungry. So I don't want to just spiritualize poverty. It's hard to believe that we know the love of Christ.

Christians. When a third of the world is at poverty level. And a quarter of the world is destitute.

It's not an option. And I can promise you it's such fun if you'll go for the poor. And huge fruit in heaven.

I don't know how much you'll see down here. But we'll reach the world quicker this way than any other. And the fame of His heart and the sweetness of His fragrance will go a very long way.

I don't really mind if you sing Let His Glory Fall in church. David knows what I mean about the song and he agrees. But I think His glory will fall if you'll go out with nothing except a broken heart and some precious seed.

And I suppose we've all got that. So do you want to go? Actually, before we came we knew that most of the people here were ready. I don't know about the captain.

I don't mean Mike. But it's possible. In fact, I think a rather large majority of you are ready.

Happily ready, actually. It's possible you're waiting for someone to organize the ship. That might be what you're waiting for.

But I think you've got to get ready to go anyway. Don't wait for the movement to start. And if you're young, you've got the rest of your life.

What better way to spend it than on Him? Night one, we're going to bless you to die. Anyone want that? Okay, please walk forward. Oh, if you're willing to die, that's all.

That means... That means... And it will be a struggle from time to time. And then you'll know it was nothing. And then it'll be a struggle again.

And then you'll know it was nothing. And then it'll be a struggle again. And sometimes it'll be like sweating blood.

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