

“BEHOLD THE  
MAIDSERVANT  
OF THE LORD!  
LET IT BE TO  
ME ACCORDING  
TO YOUR  
WORD.”  
– LUKE 1:38

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Kiahk*





# SPIRITUAL POVERTY

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is  
the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:3)*



## WHAT IS SPIRITUAL POVERTY?

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:3)
- Not necessarily associated with material poverty
- It is voluntary
- “poor” = beggar

## WHAT IS SPIRITUAL POVERTY?

*“All of our pretenses are contradictory to the posture of a beggar. The beggar is such only when he is begging. When he stops begging, he very quickly begins to think that he is somebody else. Perhaps he put away some money he received. The moment he stops begging and dresses nicely, people will no longer consider him a beggar. Speaking in the spiritual sense, it does not matter whether you stop begging because you are preoccupied with your current work or whether it happens while kneeling at prayer. The moment you stop turning to God with a humble plea for mercy you immediately cease to acknowledge the truth that you will always remain a beggar before God.” (God alone suffices, SC Biela)*

# WHAT IS SPIRITUAL POVERTY?

- Understanding myself as a sinner
- EX: Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
- **“And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.”** (Matt. 18:34)
- **“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”** (1 Tim. 1:15)



## DEMEANING?

- God is God, and we are creatures created to praise, love, and serve God.
- *“Our spiritual poverty locates our identity securely in the one place where it will be safe from all harm. If our treasure is in God, no one can take it from us. Humility is truth. I am what I am in God’s eyes: a poor child who possesses absolutely nothing, who receives everything, infinitely loved and totally free. I have received everything in advance from the freely bestowed love of my Father, who said to me definitively: “All that is mine is yours.”*  
(Philippe, Rev. Jacques. Interior Freedom)

## PURPOSE

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name...”  
(Jn. 1:12)

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” (Rom. 8:15)

# SELF-EVALUATION

**Criticism**

**Pride**

**Contempt**

**The  
unchurchly**



# CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL POVERTY

- Self-emptying
  - Poverty
  - Celibacy
  - Obedience
  - Fasting
- Prayer
  - The Canaanite Woman
  - "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." (Matt. 15:26-27)
- Discovering my sinful reality