



QA: Was Jesus a Socialist? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Did Jesus teach or practice Socialism? - 2/23/2020

ANSWER: False claims about Jesus' teaching have always been circulated by the Devil: that Jesus would rebuild the physical temple building in Jerusalem (**John 2:18-22**; **Mark 15:29-30**); or that Jesus Christ stirred up the people from Galilee to Jerusalem (**Luke 23:4-15**). But "some of the guard" during whose watch Jesus had been resurrected from the dead were given "a large sum of money" to lie that Jesus' disciples had stolen Jesus' body instead (**Matthew 28:11-15**).

Jesus Christ was nowhere near being a Marxist-Communist, for:

1. **He never forced "rich" people to give up their wealth to "equalize" with the "poor." He lived under Moses' Law**, and it taught that the poor could be loaned (not given!) money, but not charged interest (**Exodus 22:25**). It also demanded that the poor should never receive preferential treatment in a court of law (**Exodus 23:3-6**). In the Atonement census, a "national tax" was collected as an offering to the Lord, and the rich were not charged more than the poor (**Exodus 30:11-16**). Their poor were given the "leftovers" of their crop harvest, but the poor had to harvest and process it themselves (**Leviticus 19:9-10**; **Leviticus 23:22**). Regarding general good moral conduct within society, the poor were NOT to be preferred over others (**Leviticus 19:11-15**). Since there would always be poor in society, God's rule for benevolence was to have them dealt with by an open hand (**Deuteronomy 15:1-11**), but there was nothing that said the "rich" had to give up their riches so that there would no longer be any poor. Jesus repeated this truism of always having poor people in **Matthew 26:11**; **Mark 14:7**; and **John 12:8**, and if the "rich" give away all they have to the poor, there would be no one left to help anyone!
2. **He taught**, through His Apostle Paul (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**), that **poverty is often to be associated with those who will not work** (**Proverbs 10:4**; **Proverbs 13:7-8**).
3. **He never used force, violence, or mass demonstrations to kill, maim, harm, or correct "social injustices."** He withdrew from the multitude that was prepared to use force to make Him their king (**John 6:14-15**); condemned the disciple who tried to protect Him from the mob with a sword (**Matthew 26:47-56**); and in **Luke 9:51-56**, Jesus stopped His disciples from destroying the village that had refused letting Him in their midst.

4. **When needed** to overcome covetousness (**Matthew 19:16-26**) or meet sudden the necessities of those who were converted to Christ and have left behind benevolence under Moses (**Acts 2:38-45**), **then a voluntary selling of personal possessions met the immediate needs**. This, however, was never a provision of being a Christian, nor is a goal of following Christ to do away with poverty.

Christians “share” voluntarily, not because of “voting.”

—- John T. Polk II, February 23, 2020