



BLESSED ARE THE POOR? URBAN POVERTY AND THE CHURCH. SCM, 2015.

Listening intently to what the poor have to say is Laurie Green's way into a new study of Jesus' most famous Beatitude – "Blessed are the Poor". Combining years of pavement-level experience with informed biblical analysis he sets out for us how the perspective of the poor opens us up to new biblical and theological insights. These issue in a radical rethink about mission and what it means to be Church in a post-secular society. The book introduces us to Britain's poorest housing estates and with the voices of the poor ringing in our ears, then uses the radical edge of contextual theology to draw out from that a prophetic challenge to each one of us, and to a Church which is reluctant to respond seriously to the challenges of the Beatitudes. A very challenging and stimulating read.

WHAT HAVE REVIEWS SAID?

A rare and special document. **Ann Morisy**

This is my book of the year and I read a lot of books. This is contextual theology at its very best. **Alastair Kay CEO Derby City Mission.**

Carefully researched but highly readable book combines detailed reflection on biblical resources with historical and sociological perspectives. A persuasive and provocative interpretation of what Jesus meant when he pronounced the poor 'blessed'. **Stuart Murray Williams.**

Bishop Laurie Green gives us a power pack of experience enabling us to challenge authentically the present ordering of society and church. **John Battle.**

Avoiding platitudes and romantic approaches to poverty, this is the sharpest tool I have come across for getting the hang of what Jesus meant by pronouncing the poor "blessed". May its insights be preached and practised. **Geoff Reid, Bradford City Councillor. Methodist Recorder**

Green champions the call of Pope Francis that the Church should be poor and for the poor. He is passionate for the Church to alter to meet new circumstances. It must adapt and free itself of trappings that stop it engaging in effective mission. **Church Times.**

Lots of people have written books on urban ministry, but every now and then one appears that's head-and-shoulders above the rest. This is one such book! **Elwin Cockett, Archdeacon of West Ham**

This book has already received many accolades. It is of particular importance to those who are concerned to see Contextual Theology in action. It opens up new insights to the meaning of 'to Poor' and offers new interpretations of biblical texts, reappraisals of some key theological themes, and a sharp challenge to the way the Church operates today. An ideal study document for students. A 'must read'.