

(April) Helping The Poor 1 – Hell as Punishment



Matthew 25

The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. **32** All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. **33** And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. **34** Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'** **37** "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? **38** When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? **39** Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' **40** And the King will answer and say to them, '**Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'** **41** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: **42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'** **44** "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' **45** Then He will answer them, saying, '**Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'** **46** And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Luke 16

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. **20** At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores **21** and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. **23** In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. **24** So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' **25** "But Abraham replied, '**Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.**

Matthew 19

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" **17** "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." **18** "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, **19** honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" **20** "All these I have kept," the young man said. "**What do I still lack?**" **21** Jesus answered, "**If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.**" **22** When the young man heard this, **he went away sad, because he had great wealth.**

1. Can we think of other places Christ directly likened Himself to a person / people?
2. What is God's priority for money?
3. How does God define treasure? Where are you storing up treasure?
4. What are your thoughts on hell as the penalty for not helping the poor?
5. How does the Word differentiate giving to the Church vs. giving to the poor?

(April) Helping The Poor 2 – Blessings



Matthew 25:35-36 & 40 > “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me....Truly I tell you, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**”



Proverbs 19:17 > **Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord**, and he will repay him.



Proverbs 14:31 > Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but **he who is generous to the needy honors him.**



Proverbs 22:9 > Whoever has a bountiful eye **will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.**



Proverbs 28:27 > **Whoever gives to the poor will not want**, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.



Proverbs 29:7 > **A righteous man knows the rights of the poor**; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.



Proverbs 21:13 > **Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.**



Deuteronomy 15:11 > For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, **‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’**



Proverbs 14:21 > Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but **blessed is he who is generous to the poor.**



Matthew 19:21 > Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, **go, sell what you possess and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”



Acts 20:35 > In this way **we must help the weak** and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**”



Deuteronomy 15: 7-8 > If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, **you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.**

1. Can we think of other places Christ directly likened Himself to a person / people?
2. Why is God’s concern for the poor so strong, and while will they never cease?
3. What are the promises attached to giving to the poor?
4. Who is he that despises his neighbor?
5. How does the Word differentiate giving to the Church vs. giving to the poor?

(April) Helping The Poor 3 – Law



Leviticus 19

9-10 > 9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.

10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. **Leave them for the poor and the foreigner.**

15 > “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

33 > “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.

Deuteronomy 15

1-5 > 1 At the end of every seven years, you must cancel debts. 2 This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel any loan they have made to a fellow Israelite. They shall not require payment from anyone among their own people, because the Lord’s time for canceling debts has been proclaimed. 3 You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your fellow Israelite owes you. 4 **However, there need be no poor people among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you,** 5 if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

7-11 > 7 **If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them.** 8 **Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.** 9 Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: “The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near,” **so that you do not show ill will toward the needy** among your fellow Israelites and give them nothing. **They may then appeal to the Lord against you, and you will be found guilty of sin.** 10 **Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.** 11 **There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.**

12-14 > 12 If any of your people—Hebrew men or women—sell themselves to you and serve you six years, in the seventh year you must let them go free. 13 **And when you release them, do not send them away empty-handed.** 14 **Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the Lord your God has blessed you.**

Deuteronomy 24

6 > Do not take a pair of millstones—not even the upper one—as security for a debt, **because that would be taking a person’s livelihood as security.**

10-13 > 10 When you make a loan of any kind to your neighbor, do not go into their house to get what is offered to you as a pledge. 11 Stay outside and let the neighbor to whom you are making the loan bring the pledge out to you. 12 **If the neighbor is poor, do not go to sleep with their pledge in your possession.**

13 Return their cloak by sunset so that your neighbor may sleep in it. **Then they will thank you, and it will be regarded as a righteous act in the sight of the Lord your God.**

1. Do we live knowing that all we have belongs to God, and we steward it as He desires?

- **Hebrews 2:10** > *Everything belongs to God, and all things were created by his power.*
- **Haggai 2:8** > *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.*
- **Psalms 50:12** > *“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.*
- **Psalms 24: 1** > *The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*
- **Job 41:11** > *Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.*
- **Deuteronomy 10:14-17** > *Everything belongs to the LORD your God. The heavens, even the highest heavens, belong to him. The earth and everything on it belong to him.*

(April) Helping The Poor 4 – Judgments



Job 20: 19-21 > 19 **Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor**; because he hath violently taken away Surely, house which he builded not; 20 therefore, he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired. 21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore, shall no man look for his goods.

Isaiah 3: 14-15 > 14 The Lord will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: **for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses.** 15 What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, **and grind the faces of the poor**? saith the Lord God of hosts.

Isaiah 10: 1-2 > 1. Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; 2 **To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!**

Jeremiah 2:34 > 34 Also **in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents**: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

Ezekiel 16:49 > “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; **they did not help the poor and needy.**

Amos 2:7 > **They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed.**

Amos 4:1 > Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, **you women who oppress the poor** and crush the needy and say to your husbands, “Bring us some drinks!”

Zechariah 7:10 > **Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor.** Do not plot evil against each other.

Acts 10:4 & 31 > Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “**Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.**” Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and **remembered your gifts to the poor.**

Galatians 2:10 > All they asked was that **we should continue to remember the poor**, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

James 2:2-4 > For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? 5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?** 6 **But ye have despised the poor.** Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

1. How are Christ's two greatest commandments directly related to helping the poor, who are as loved and created by God as we are?

- ***Matthew 22: 36*** > “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”