

## Selected Scriptures on Poverty & Justice

- **God's Concern for the Poor**

- **Psalm 10:14** But you O God see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.
- **Psalm 12:5** "Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them."
- **Psalm 140:12** I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.
- **Isaiah 25:4** You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall.
- **Isaiah 41:17** "The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them."
- **Amos 5:24** But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.
- **Micah 6:8** He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- **Luke 6:20-21** "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger for now, for you will be satisfied."
- **James 2:5** Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

- **God's Instruction Concerning the Poor**

- **Deuteronomy 15:7** 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.
- **Leviticus 19:9-10** 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. 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. I am the LORD your God.
- **Proverbs 31:8** Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
- **Isaiah 58:6-9** "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer: you will cry for help and he will say: Here am I."

- **God's Instruction Concerning the Poor (con't)**
  - **Matthew 5:42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.
  - **Luke 12:33** Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
  - **Acts 2:44-45** All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.
  - **Acts 4:32-35** All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from all the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.
  - **2 Corinthians 9:6-9** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."
  - **James 1:27** Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
- **God's Blessing on Those Who Serve the Poor**
  - **Deuteronomy 15:10** 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.
  - **Psalms 41:1** Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble.
  - **Proverbs 19:17** Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.
  - **Proverbs 22:9** The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.
  - **Isaiah 58:10** And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.
  - **Luke 14:12-14** Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

- All scriptures from the New International Version