

Faith's Response III

How to Respond to the Poor

Matthew 25:34-36 (NASB 2020) "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For 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; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

I. Don't forget the poor

Acts 6:1 (NASB 2020) Now at this time, as the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint developed on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

Galatians 2:10 (NASB 2020) They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 (NASB 2020) "If there is a poor person among you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; but you shall fully open your hand to him, and generously lend him enough for his need in whatever he lacks.

****Luke 6:34-36 (NASB 2020)** And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil people. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

II. Justice & Righteousness

Proverbs 21:3 (NLT) The LORD is more pleased when we do what is right and just than when we offer him sacrifices.

Isaiah 1:17 (NLT) Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.

III. Who are the poor?

The difference between being poor/helpless and being poor/laziness

1. Poor/laziness

Proverbs 10:4 (NASB 2020) Poor is one who works with a lazy hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 13:4 (NASB 2020) The soul of the lazy one craves and gets nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made prosperous.

Proverbs 20:13 (NASB 2020) Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NASB 2020) For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

Proverbs 24:30-34 (NASB 2020) I passed by the field of a lazy one, And by the vineyard of a person lacking sense,

2. Poor/helpless

Proverbs 13:23 (NASB 2020) Abundant food is in the uncultivated ground of the poor, But it is swept away by injustice.

Isaiah 10:1-2 (NASB 2020) Woe to those who enact unjust statutes, And to those who constantly record harmful decisions, So as to deprive the needy of justice, And rob the poor among My people of their rights, So that widows may be their spoil, And that they may plunder the orphans.

Not everyone who is poor or in jail is there because of something they did wrong!

James 5:4 (NASB 2020) Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of armies.

What about the sense of helplessness?

Psalms 34:18-19 (NASB 2020) The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. The afflictions of the righteous are many, But the LORD rescues him from them all.

****Psalms 72:12-15 (NASB 2020)** For he will save the needy when he cries for help, The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.

IV. The Blessing of Generosity

Psalms 41:1-3 (NASB 2020) Blessed is one who considers the helpless; The LORD will save him on a day of trouble. The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, And he will be called blessed upon the earth; And do not turn him over to the desire of his enemies. The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed; In his illness, You restore him to health.

Proverbs 19:17 (NASB 2020) One who is gracious to a poor person lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

Proverbs 22:9 (NLT) Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.

Proverbs 28:27 (NASB 2020) One who gives to the poor will never lack anything, But one who shuts his eyes will have many curses.

Luke 6:38 (NASB 2020) Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

When the New Testament speaks of "doing good," it generally refers to living out God's will through acts of love, righteousness, and mercy that reflect Christ's character. It's not just about random acts of kindness or moral behavior; it's about embodying the goodness of God through obedience, compassion, and service to others.

Galatians 6:9-10 (NASB 2020) Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NASB 2020) Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NASB 2020) Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Acts 20:35 (NASB 2020) In everything I showed you that by working hard in this way you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Matthew 24:12 (NASB 2020) And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold.