

PROVERBS SERIES TEN

CULTIVATING COMPASSION FOR THE POOR AND FOR THE DOWN AND OUT

Dr. Roger Barrier

Proverbs 10:15;14:31;19:17;22:7,9

Proverbs has massive sections devoted to the poor and needy. This morning in Proverbs we will investigate what God has to say and engage in some practical manifestations of how we may fulfill God's will in helping those who are not as fortunate as we.

Will Rogers: "God must love the poor. That is why He made so many of them."

IT IS NOT PLEASANT TO BE POOR. THE POOR ARE ALWAYS BEHIND.

Proverb 10:15: The wealth of the rich is their fortified city,
but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
Proverb 19:7: A poor man is shunned by all his relatives —
how much more do his friends avoid him!
Though he pursues them with pleading,
they are nowhere to be found.

THE CAUSES OF POVERTY ARE MANY AND VARRIED.

*Some simply won't work.

Proverb 10:4: Lazy hands make a man poor,
but diligent hands bring wealth.

*Some love pleasure, drugs and alcohol.

Proverb 23:20-21: Do not join those who drink too much wine
or gorge themselves on meat,
for drunkards and gluttons become poor,
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

*Some are too undisciplined to work.

Proverb 13:18: He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame,
but whoever heeds correction is honored.

*Some talk too much and work too little.

Proverb 14:23: All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.

*Some engage in unwise financial dealings.

Proverb 21:5: The plans of the diligent lead to profit
as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverb 28:22: A stingy man is eager to get rich
and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

Proverb 22:7: The rich rule over the poor,
and the borrower is servant to the lender.

*Most are poor because of people and events over which they have little or no control.

Proverbs 13:23: A poor man's field may produce abundant food,
but injustice sweeps it away.

Proverb 18:23: A poor man pleads for mercy,
but a rich man answers harshly.

OPRESSING THE POOR IS CONDEMNED BY GOD.

Proverb 14:31: He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,
but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Proverb 22:2: Rich and poor have this in common:
The LORD is the Maker of them all.

Proverb 22:22-23: Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,
for the LORD will take up their case
and will plunder those who plunder them.

HOW DO WE HELP THE POOR?

Proverb 19:17: He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverb 22:9: A generous man will himself be blessed,
for he shares his food with the poor.

Proverb 28:27: He who gives to the poor will lack nothing,
but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

1. Manage Personal Finances To Have A Surplus Each Month To Share With The Poor And Needy.

Ephesians 4:28: He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something
useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

2 Corinthians 8:14-15: At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn
their plenty will supply what you need.

2. Get In Touch With The Poor And Needy.

- a. Find ways to defeat the upward mobility syndrome.
- b. Develop a culture within your family of helping the poor and needy:
 - Let your child support a child who is hurting;
 - Help your children see the other side of life;
 - Model generosity at Christmas;
 - Volunteer at a nursing home.

3. Let Your Heart Break With Compassion.

Christ came to preach good news to the poor and deliverance to the captives.
Compassion is the key: Christ looked on people with compassion. So must we.

THE POOR AND NEEDY COME IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS.

Proverb 14:31: He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,
but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

DAVID? OR DIVES?

2 Samuel 9:6-13? or Luke 16:19-31?