

## Care for The *Needy*

- **Introduction:**
  1. **God's** word gives us clear instruction concerning our responsibility to the poor. **By the term *needy* we refer to the poor, fatherless, widows, strangers, and afflicted.**
  2. **The** condition of our nation, churches, and families should motivate us to ask God, "What is wrong?" **In Isaiah 58:6–7** God declares that true worship of Him sacrifices to serve others which will result in meeting the needs of others, "*Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*"
  3. **In** His word, God includes an honest look at our responsibility to the *needy*. **We** will focus on the term ***poor*** in the Book of Proverbs for our study in this message.
  4. **The** words we will use for our study are defined as follows.
    - a. "**Poor**" (Proverbs 10:4) - 7326. *ruwsh*; **to be destitute.**
    - b. "**Poor**" (Proverbs 10:15) - 1800. *dal*; **dangling, weak, thin.**
    - c. "**Poor**" (Proverbs 14:21) - 6041. *'aniy*; **depressed in mind or circumstances.**
    - d. "**Poor**" (Proverbs 14:31) - 34. *'ebyown*; **to be in want, feeling destitute.**
    - e. "**Poor**" (Proverbs 21:17) - 4270. *machcowr*; **to be in deficiency; impoverishment.**
    - f. "**Lest I be poor**" (Proverbs 30:9) - 3423. *yarash*; **to seize, rob, expel, impoverish.**
  5. **We** have organized these verses in the following seven categories to specify our responsibilities in ministering to the *needy*. **Our** goal in ministry is to glorify God as we make disciples by receiving and sharing God's grace. **This** is the only way we can bring the culture of poverty in our nation to a true Biblical solution. **In** my opinion most, if not all, the secular work being done to meet this great need is serving only to lock them into their bondage. **We** have a culture of poverty in this generation that may destroy our nation as we know it today. **To** minister to the *needy* we must hear their cry, recognize their condition, understand the truth, heed God's warning, celebrate their value, consider their cause, and receive God's blessing.

## Care for The *Needy*

### I. Our Ministry to The *Needy* Hears Their Cry.

- **Hearing their cry protects us from God's wrath.**
  1. **In Proverbs 21:13 God states His commitment to the *needy*,** “Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the *poor* [1800] he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.”
  2. **In Exodus 22:22–24 God declares His commitment to the fatherless and widows,** “Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. <sup>23</sup>If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; <sup>24</sup>And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”
  3. **In each case God warns us of His wrath if we do not heed His warning and hear their cry.**

### II. Our Ministry to The *Needy* Recognizes Their Condition.

- A. **Recognizing their condition sees that poverty is their destruction.**
  - **Proverbs 10:15** - “The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the *poor* [1800] is their poverty.”
- B. **Recognizing their condition sees that poverty brings hatred.**
  1. **Proverbs 14:20** - “The *poor* [7326] is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.”
  2. **Proverbs 19:7** - “All the brethren of the *poor* [7326] do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.”
- C. **Recognizing their condition sees that poverty separates them from others.**
  - **Proverbs 19:4** - “Wealth maketh many friends; but the *poor* [1800] is separated from his neighbour.”
- D. **Recognizing their condition sees that mistreatment of the poor is brutal and wicked.**
  - **Proverbs 28:15** - “As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the *poor* [1800] people.”
- E. **Recognizing their condition sees that the natural way of the earth locks them into their bondage.**
  - **Proverbs 30:21–23** - “For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear: <sup>22</sup>For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; <sup>23</sup>For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid **that is heir** [3423- to seize, rob, expel] to her mistress.”

### III. Our Ministry to The *Needy* Understands The Truth about Poverty.

- A. **Understanding this truth sees that the affliction of poverty is evil.**
  - **Proverbs 15:15** - “All the days of the *afflicted* [6041-depressed in mind or circumstances] are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.”
- B. **Understanding this truth sees that the Lord makes the poor and the rich.**

## Care for The Needy

- **Proverbs 22:2** - *“The rich and **poor** [7326] meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all.”*
  - C. Understanding this truth sees that the poor oppress the poor leaving only destruction.**
    - **Proverbs 28:3** - *“A **poor** [7326] man that oppreseth the **poor** [1800] is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.”*
  - D. Understanding this truth sees that poverty and uprightness, is better than riches with perverseness.**
    - **Proverbs 28:6** - *“Better is the **poor** [7326] that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.”*
  - E. Understanding this truth sees that the Lord alone gives understanding.**
    - **Proverbs 29:13** - *“The **poor** [7326] and the deceitful man meet together: the Lord lighteneth both their eyes.”*
- IV. Our Ministry to The Needy Heeds God’s Warning.**
- A. Heeding God’s warning demonstrates our respect of God.**
    1. **Proverbs 14:31** - *“He that oppreseth the **poor** [1800] reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the **poor** [34].”*
    2. **Proverbs 17:5** - *“Whoso mocketh the **poor** [7326] reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.”*
  - B. Heeding God’s warning keeps us from bringing God’s judgment upon us.**
    1. **Proverbs 22:16** - *“He that oppreseth the **poor** [1800] to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely **come to want** [4270].”*
    2. **Proverbs 22:22–23** - *“Rob not the **poor** [1800], because he is **poor** [1800]: neither oppress the **afflicted** [6041] in the gate: <sup>23</sup>For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.”*
  - C. Heeding God’s warning uses the gain from unjust work for the needy.**
    - **Proverbs 28:8** - *“He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the **poor** [1800].”*
- V. Our Ministry to The Needy Celebrates Their Value.**
- A. Celebrating the value of the poor keeps us from being easily intimidated.**
    - **Proverbs 13:8** - *“The ransom of a man’s life are his riches: but the **poor** [7326] heareth not rebuke.”*
  - B. Celebrating the value of the poor teaches us to speak with respect.**
    - **Proverbs 18:23** - *“The **poor** [7326] useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.”*
  - C. Celebrating the value of the poor values their integrity.**
    - **Proverbs 19:1** - *“Better is the **poor** [7326] that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.”*
  - D. Celebrating the value of the poor realizes the hope of a righteous desire versus lying.**

## Care for The Needy

- **Proverbs 19:22** - *“The desire of a man is his kindness: and a **poor man** [7326] is better than a liar.”*

### E. Celebrating the value of the poor enables us to choose true understanding.

- **Proverbs 28:11** - *“The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the **poor** [1800] that hath understanding searcheth him out.”*

## VI. Our Ministry to The Needy Considers Their Cause.

### A. Considering their cause identifies ten actions that cause poverty.

#### 1. Poverty comes by slothfulness.

a. **Proverbs 6:6–11** - *“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: <sup>7</sup>Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, <sup>8</sup>Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. <sup>9</sup>How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? <sup>10</sup>Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: <sup>11</sup>So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy **want** [4270] as an armed man.”*

b. **Proverbs 24:33–34** - *“Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: <sup>34</sup>So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy **want** [4270] as an armed man.”*

c. **Proverbs 20:13** - *“Love not sleep, lest thou come to **poverty** [3423]; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.”*

#### 2. Poverty comes by a slack hand.

- **Proverbs 10:4** - *“He becometh **poor** [7326] that dealeth with a slack [# 7411 - careless] hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.”*

#### 3. Poverty comes by stinginess.

- **Proverbs 11:24** - *“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to **poverty** [4270].”*

#### 4. Poverty comes by a lack of justice.

- **Proverbs 13:23** - *“Much food is in the tillage of the **poor** [7326]: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.”*

#### 5. Poverty comes by lots of talk, but no work.

- **Proverbs 14:23** - *“In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to **penury** [4270].”*

#### 6. Poverty comes by hasty actions without proper planning.

- **Proverbs 21:5** - *“The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to **want** [4270].”*

#### 7. Poverty comes by loving pleasure, worldly living, drunkenness, and gluttony.

- a. **Proverbs 21:17** - *“He that loveth pleasure shall be a **poor** [4270] man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.”*

## Care for The Needy

b. **Proverbs 23:21** - *“For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty [3423]: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.”*

**8. Poverty comes by unwise borrowing.**

• **Proverbs 22:7** - *“The rich ruleth over the **poor** [7326], and the borrower is servant to the lender.”*

**9. Poverty comes by a lack of contentment.**

• **Proverbs 30:7–9** - *“Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: <sup>8</sup>Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: <sup>9</sup>Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be **poor** [3423], and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”*

**10. Poverty comes upon the fatherless & widow.**

• *Children in **father-absent** homes are almost four times more likely to be poor.* (The Consequences of Fatherlessness)

**B. Considering their cause enables us to follow the instruction of Scripture.**

**1. Following the instruction of Scripture demonstrates our righteousness.**

• **Proverbs 29:7** - *“The righteous considereth the cause of the **poor** [1800]: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.”*

**2. Following the instruction of Scripture demonstrates our leadership** (verse 4 - “kings”).

• **Proverbs 31:9** - *“Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the **poor** [6041] and **needy** [34].”*

**3. Following the instruction of Scripture demonstrates our discernment of the evil of our generation.**

• **Proverbs 30:11–14** - *“There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. <sup>12</sup>There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. <sup>13</sup>There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. <sup>14</sup>There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the **poor** [6041] from off the earth, and the **needy** [34] from among men.”*

## VII. Our Ministry to The Needy Receives God’s Blessing.

**A. Receiving God’s blessing includes being able to receive God’s grace.**

1. **Proverbs 3:34** - *“Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the **lowly** [6041].”*

2. **The humility that comes with poverty makes us able to receive God’s grace.**

3. **God’s grace enables us to be free to choose God’s will.**

## Care for The Needy

- **James 4:6** - *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”*

### **B. Receiving God’s blessing includes being able to receive true riches.**

- 1. We may have poverty and yet have true riches.**
  - **Proverbs 13:7** - *“There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself **poor** [7326], yet hath great riches.”*
- 2. Giving to the need of the poor demonstrates God’s blessing upon us.**
  - **Proverbs 22:9** - *“He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the **poor** [1800].”*
- 3. We will not lack if we give to the poor, but if we refuse to give to their need we will be cursed.**
  - **Proverbs 28:27** - *“He that giveth unto the **poor** [7326] shall not **lack** [4270]: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.”*

### **C. Receiving God’s blessing includes being able to demonstrate mercy.**

- 1. Giving mercy to the poor gives us true happiness.**
  - **Proverbs 14:21** - *“He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the **poor** [6041], happy is he.”*
- 2. Giving to the need of the poor is like giving to the Lord, and He will repay us.**
  - **Proverbs 19:17** - *“He that hath pity upon the **poor** [1800] lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”*

### **D. Receiving God’s blessing includes being able to receive the blessings of humility.**

- 1. Having a humble spirit with the lowly is better than dividing gain with the proud.**
  - **Proverbs 16:19** - *“Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the **lowly** [6041], than to divide the spoil with the proud.”*
- 2. Our humility enables us to be free from pride’s destruction.**
  - **Proverbs 16:18** - *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

### **E. Receiving God’s blessing includes being able to establish our leadership/strength forever.**

- 1. Leaders who faithfully judge the poor are established forever.**
  - **Proverbs 29:14** - *“The king that faithfully judgeth the **poor** [1800], his throne shall be established for ever.”*
- 2. The strength and blessing of the virtuous woman is demonstrated by her care of the poor.**
  - **Proverbs 31:20** - *“She stretcheth out her hand to the **poor** [6041]; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the **needy** [34].”*