



Sermon Notes

March 30, 2008

Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #8
Give to the Poor
Various Passages

Proverbs 14:31

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker,
but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed.

Leviticus 23:22 "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God."

Deut. 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.'

2 Cor. 8:8-9 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. [9] For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

1 John 3:17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Introduction

Today: "Give to the Poor", Message #8 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

- Note that physical poverty teaches us about spiritual poverty

Rev 3:17 *For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*

2 Cor. 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

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1: Who are the poor?

- Worldwide there is devastating poverty in many countries
 - Many African countries, India, China, Haiti, many others
- In Canada – groups with a high percentage of poverty *
 - People living in large urban centers
 - Recent immigrants
 - Single parent families
 - People with disabilities
 - First Nations people
 - Women over age 75
 - In general, women & children experience higher than average rates of poverty

* Source: <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2007/upp/> , various reports

2. What causes poverty?

- Sin is the ultimate cause of poverty – Genesis 3 (esp. vv17-19)
- Personal sins that lead to personal poverty
 - Love of worldly pleasure – Prov. 21:17
 - Drunkenness – Prov. 23:20-21
 - Promiscuous living – Prov. 29:3
 - Laziness – Prov. 28:19, 10:4
 - Lack of personal planning – Prov. 21:5
- Sins by others that cause personal poverty
 - Injustice / oppression – Prov. 13:23, Prov. 29:7
 - Employer fails to pay wages – Deut. 24:14-15
 - High interest (usury) – Prov. 28:8
 - Government oppression – Prov. 28:15-16
 - Unjust courts – Lev. 19:15
- Other sources of poverty
 - War
 - Famine
 - Natural Disasters
 - Failing Economy
 - Family Breakup
 - Being Widowed
 - Being Orphaned
 - Relocation (ie new immigrant)
 - Physical & Mental Disabilities

3. What does the Bible say about the poor and poverty?

- a. Wealth and poverty are both from the Lord
 - 1 Samuel 2:7-8, Job 1:21
- b. The Lord cares deeply for the poor
 - Psalm 35:10, 40:17, 113:5-8, Isaiah 25:4, 41:17-20
- c. In ancient Israel the Lord gave laws to aid and protect the poor
 - Ex. 23:11, Lev. 19:10, 23:22, 24:19, Ruth 2:2-3
- d. Jesus showed compassion for the poor, sick and lame
 - Luke 4:16-19, 7:22, many examples
- e. The apostles made it a priority to help the poor
 - Gal. 2:9-10, Rom. 15:25-28, 1 Cor 16:1-3, 2 Cor. 9:12
- f. The Lord promises reward or punishment based on our treatment of the poor
 - Matthew 25:31-46, Prov. 14:21, 19:17, Luke 14:12-14
 - Amos 4:1-2, 5:11, Ez. 18:10-13, Is. 3:14-15, 10:1-2
- g. God calls us to help the poor and it is a sin not to do so
 - Prov. 14:21, 19:17, 22:9, 28:2, Ez. 16:49, Is. 58:6-11, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, 2 Cor. 8:6-7, James 2:14-17

4. How can we most effectively help the poor today?

- a. Give them the gospel!
 - If poverty is ultimately a result of sin, then the solution is ultimately related to salvation
 - Many poverty-causing sins are dealt with when a person comes to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour
 - Spend time showing God's love and teaching Biblical principles that fight poverty
- b. Give generously to care for the physical needs of the poor

James 2:15-16 *If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?*

 - Direct Personal Assistance (Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37)
 - Church Assistance Fund
 - Urban Missions Organizations
 - Global Missions Organizations
 - Government Assistance
- c. Pray for the poor for their salvation (if they are unsaved) and for their physical needs

Our Response

1. Have the same attitude that Jesus had towards the poor: an attitude of love and compassion.
2. Pray for those in need and give generously to help the poor.

Proverbs 19:17

*Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed.*

Deut. 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.'*

Questions for Application

1. Who are the poor a) in our world today? b) in Canada today?
2. Have you ever helped the poor but felt taken advantage of because the gift was not well used? Has this impacted your desire to help the poor today?
3. What are some causes of poverty? Have you observed these in action?
4. How did the Lord show compassion for the poor in the Bible?
5. How does preaching the gospel help the poor?
6. What is your attitude towards the poor? Do you share the compassion of Christ for the poor?
7. Pray together for the poor in our world and our country. Pray for God's help to care for the poor and about what He would have you to do in a tangible way.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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