

Looking Outside Yourself

Luke 16:19-31

THE STORY: Jesus had given a parable on money. Use it wisely and generously. Be careful that you do not serve money. Then the Pharisees were scoffing at him because they “were lovers of money”. (Luke 19:1-13)

Jesus emphasizes that money, which is “highly esteemed among men, is detestable in the sight of God.” – v15 He then gives the story of a rich man and the poor man at his gates, Lazarus. (v19-31) What you do with your money is what God looks at. *Jesus leaves us with a deep question: Who do you serve? Money? Or God?*

What is God’s perspective of the poor?

You need to see the poor

- ◆ The rich man was all about himself – v19

“habitually dressed in purple” – v19

“gaily living in splendor” – v10

- ◆ He didn’t “see” Lazarus at his gate

“laid at his gate” – v20

“covered with sores”

You need to see the significance of the “little” of what you have

- ◆ Our “little bit” could be a life changer to someone else

“longing to be fed.” – v21 (food)

“even the dogs were coming and licking his sores” (comfort)

God desires compassion

- ◆ Even God’s creation displays compassion

“even the dogs were licking his sores” – Luke 16:21

- ◆ God has compassion for the poor

Jesus became poor for us – 2 Cor 8:9

He anointed Me to preach the Good News to the poor – Luke 4:18

If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor – Mat 19:21

For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help, the afflicted also, and him who has no helper. He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of the needy he will save. He will rescue their life from oppression and violence, and their blood will be precious in his sight; - Psalm 72:12-14

◆ God identifies with the poor

“he who is gracious to the needy honors Him” – Prov 14:31

“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.” – Mat 25:34-36

◆ God instructs us to care for the poor

Sell your possessions and give to charity – Luke 12:33 (Jesus)

when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind – Luke 14:13 (Jesus)

"Is this not the fast which I choose... To loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? – Isaiah 58:6

"Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? – Isaiah 58:7

◆ There are special blessings for those who care for the poor

"Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

"Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; You will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' 10 And if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness and your gloom will become like midday. 11 "And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. – Isaiah 58:8-11

Happy is he who is gracious to the poor. – Proverbs 14:21

He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. – Proverbs 22:9

One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed. – Proverbs 19:17

He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses. – Proverbs 28:27

◆ There are curses for those who ignore the poor

He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses. – Proverbs 28:27

He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered. – Proverbs 21:13

◆ Jesus will judge the poor

He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but **with righteousness He will judge the poor**, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. – Isaiah 11:3-4

◆ Reasons People Become Poor

■ *Laziness*

How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"— Your poverty will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man. – Proverbs 6:9-11

■ *Drunkenness*

For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe one with rags. – Proverbs 23:21

■ *Hastiness*

The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty. – Proverbs 21:5

■ *Loving Pleasure*

He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not become rich. – Proverbs 21:17

■ *Borrowing Money*

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave. – Proverbs 22:7

■ *Oppression*

oppression of the poor and denial of justice and righteousness – Ecclesiastes 5:8

He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself – Prov 22:16