

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.

SLIDE: Abraham Lincoln: God must love the poor. That is why He made so many of them."

Lincoln was our most famous president. His face is not on the silver dollar, or fifty-cent pieces or quarters; it is on the penny.

There is a reason.

David Brenner knew only poverty and hunger before he immigrated to the US from Russia. Became a famous sculptor. It was his idea to put Lincoln on the penny.

There would be more pennies minted than any other coin; consequently there would be more of them in the pockets of the poor people. Pennies remind us of people in need.

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

LANA'S SON: never could get ahead in life. He was always behind.

I was fortunate: My parents decided when I was born that part of their responsibility was to put my brother and I through college. To get us a start in life. College work was my job. "Your job is to make good grades and get prepared for a career." When we graduated we were on our own.

Looked at dad's finances: built up retirement after we were gone.

Not every parent can do that. Many could if they developed a disciplined plan early on.

Some don't want to: "Teach my child the value of money. They can work through school like I did!"

Key is to have a financial plan you are working on. (Take Crown courses to close the gap from where you are to the financial plan God wants you to have.

All would agree that it is not good to be poor. They are always trying to catch up.

SLIDE: Old Russian Proverb: Poverty is not a sin. It is a great deal worse.

SLIDE: Proverb 10:15: The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.

SLIDE: 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.

SLIDE: Flavellas: poverty: Glitz of Impanema . Well kept secret right around the corner.

SLIDE: THE CAUSES OF POVERTY ARE MANY AND VARRIED?

Some simply won't work.

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

Some love pleasure, drugs and alcohol.

■ SLIDE: 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.

Time, energy, money, and opportunity are wasted when leisure and pleasure control a person's life.

Some are too undisciplined to work.

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

Unfortunately, some people weren't disciplined when young and taught the importance of work.
Listening to orders and obeying them, paying attention to correction and reproof and not repeating mistakes,
and respecting supervision are essential to success in any job.

Some talk too much and work too little

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

Some are involved in unwise financial dealings

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

Get rich schemes: Rush impulsively into a "good deal" and you may lose everything (Prov. 21:5).

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

Gambling, lottery

Jan and her sister were on the way home from shopping when her sister said that she forgot to buy her lottery tickets for the Saturday night drawing. She suggested they stop at the Circle K on the way home and she could go in and she could get her tickets.

Jan responded, "Why don't we save some time? I'll drive by and you can just throw the money out the window."

■ SLIDE: Richard on Survivor tries to cheat the IRS

■ SLIDE: 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.

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

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

SLIDE: Tsunami victims: three generations to recover.

John Perkins, black evangelist and social worker in Jackson, Mississippi tells of a black woman trapped in poverty. Lived with 12 kids packed into a four room house. Her cupboard was bare. Perkins encouraged the small Oak Ridge Church to help out. Sent food but not much changed.

The church asked how Christ's love might meet her needs.

The answer began to surface when Parker noticed that in the summer when it was hot and humid that the woman and the children began to tear the wood right off the house to use for their cooking fire. Soon you could look in places right through the whole house. It seemed so stupid to tear the wood off your house when winter was just around the corner.

Many stopped trying to be charitable. They began to blame the woman for her own problems. In a sense she was to blame, but Perkins recognized that she was trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Poverty had moved beyond the physical to dominate her whole mind. To the poor, poverty leads to thinking just for the moment. It leads to an inability to think about the future because of the demands to survive in the present. It becomes a culture, a whole way of life.

SLIDE: OPPRESSING THE POOR IS CONDEMNED BY GOD

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

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

God doesn't respect the rich more than He respects the poor. The poor are made in the image of God, so the way we treat the poor is the way we treat God.

SLIDE: HOW DO WE HELP THE POOR?

We give them money and help improve their lot in life.

City leaders and non profit-organizations work to improve neighborhoods, reduce crime and bring jobs into the community.

Mayor Walkup's jobs partnership programs.

Improve schools, literacy and education.

Today, I want to speak on a more personal level. How you and I can personally make a difference.

SLIDE: Henry Miller: "Everybody wants to right the world. Nobody wants to help their neighbor."

SLIDE: Peter de Vries: "We are not put on earth to see through one another but to see one another through."

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

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

SLIDE: 1. MANAGE PERSONAL FINANCES SO SOME IS LEFT OVER EACH MONTH TO SHARE WITH THE POOR AND NEEDY.

SLIDE: 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.

OVERHEAD: Foundation for a Biblical financial plan

1. Tithe to God
2. Taxes to government
3. Out of debt on depreciating items
4. Saving for the future

Pay bills and have a positive cash flow
Have a Surplus to give away

SLIDE: 2. GET IN TOUCH WITH THE POOR AND NEEDY

If going to have compassion, we must get close to the poor and needy.

SLIDE: On a hot spring day in 1968 Bobby Kennedy was fighting for the Democratic nomination for president. He was crisscrossing the streets of some of the poorest neighborhoods in Spanish Harlem. After 5 hours he was caked with dirt and soaked in perspiration, His guide for the day was former boxing champion Jose Torres.

Torres wondered at the conclusion of their 18 hour day why the rich man's son came to the ghettos and worked so hard and for so long? Torres asked, "Why are you doing this? Why are you running?" Bobby replied in a very low voice: "Because I found out that my world isn't the real world.

A. The Upward Mobility Syndrome Of American Culture Begins To Put Practical Limitations On Who We Can Reach For Jesus Christ.

Sociologist identify 9 economic and educational levels

OVERHEAD

- 9 150K or PhD. Bell curve in Industrial and Information Nations
- 8 Bell curve in third world
- 7 Bell curve in fourth world
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 Poverty level

Upward mobility syndrome: We tend over time to move up the scale. We can do that in America. Over time we will move up the scale. College to midst of business career.

Upward mobility syndrome accelerated by Xnty. Become a Xn and personal life takes off. 100 years sociologist in church in Detroit when pastor said, "If you want to get ahead in life then trust Jesus.

Sociologist angry. Set out to prove him wrong. Preacher was right. Better self esteem, clean up personal habits, better worker; miss fewer days at work.
Christians tend to up the scale faster than non-Xns do.

People tend to congregate across not more than 3 of the nine levels on the 9 point scale.

7-20%

6-45%

5-25%

10% can be anywhere

The 10% delude people into thinking that they are in touch with every level of society! They take the 10% and magnify it.

Problem is that we tend to spend most of the time looking up the ladder. Where we want to go. Where we want to be. We don't look down the ladder to the poor and needy.

Well, I can minister down the ladder. I was there. I once was one. No, once go up the ladder really hard to minister back down. The emphasis is on the word, "was."

STORY: Bronwyn taking dad to minister to homeless at Kimmel Park

B. Develop A Culture Within Your Family of Helping The Poor And Needy

SLIDE: 1. Let your child support a child who is hurting (Christian children's fund—picture and letters from a child

SLIDE: 2. Help them see the other side of life (mission trips)

SLIDE: 3. Give at Christmas (angel tree)

SLIDE: 4. Volunteer at a nursing home (let them go alone after some times with you)

SLIDE: 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, looking on him with compassion

TOM WHEELER: What if we are the poor?

Godly way of handling it. Trust, never seen the godly begging bread.

Godly way out of it.

Not like poor want to be like that

Angry at me for not being better.

Angry at god for not showing me a way out.

The three things I most struggle with are:

Anger

Frustration

And Embarrassment

SLIDE: THE POOR AND NEEDY COME IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS

SLIDE: Proverb 14:31: He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,

but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

CHRIST MINISTERED TO MANY WHO COULDN'T EARN A LIVING

 SLIDE: Jesus healing a blind person

 SLIDE: Jesus healing a deaf person

 SLIDE: Jesus healing a crippled person

 SLIDE: Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood couldn't get married and a husband was the only means of support.

 SLIDE: Mother Theresa: "The spiritual poverty of the Western world is much greater than the physical poverty of our people in India. You in the West have millions of people who suffer such terrible loneliness and emptiness."

 SLIDE: DAVID? OR DIVES?

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

DRAMA: Sunshine: Bob and Daryl Spruance

SONG: Help somebody cry