

Rich & Poor, Part 3 IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

November 2021

FROM THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Matthew 6:1-4 — What is the *wrong* way to give to the needy?

- What is the *proper* way to give to the needy?

Matthew 18:21-35 — Could our salvation (summarized here as God’s forgiveness of our own sins) depend on whether we forgive the debts of people who owe us and are in need? What do you think?

Matthew 25:31-46 — List 6 criteria by which the Son of Man will judge people when he comes in his glory:

- verses 35 & 42 —
- verses 35 & 42 —
- verses 35 & 43 —
- verses 36 & 43 —
- verses 36 & 43 —
- verses 36 & 43 —

Mark 7:1-13 (*similar to Matthew 15:1-9*) — What does Jesus’ teaching here tell us about what God expects from adult children whose parents (perhaps elderly) are in need?

FROM JESUS’ CRITIQUE OF THE PHARISEES AND TEACHERS OF THE LAW

Matthew 23:23-26 — The Pharisees and teachers of the law tithed even from their tiniest crops—but Jesus wanted them to stop neglecting “the more important matters of the law”: _____, _____, and _____. He also called them to be clean inside and not only outside, getting rid of their internal _____ and self-indulgence.

Mark 12:38-40 (*similar to Luke 20:45-47*) — According to Jesus, what were the teachers of the law doing to widows?

Luke 11:37-42 — According to Jesus, what did the Pharisees need to do to be truly clean before God (verse 41)?

Luke 3:7-14 — What three instructions did John the Baptist give to those with more resources than others or with power over others?

- verse 11, to the crowd:
- verse 13, to tax collectors:
- verse 14, to soldiers:

Luke 6:27-36 — From verse 30: Should we always give to everyone who asks us? Is this an absolute command from Jesus, or a principle to which there may be exceptions? How do you see it?

- verses 34-35 — How does Jesus expect us to treat our enemies when they need loans? Is such action wise? Why or why not?

Luke 12:13-34 — What problem sparked this teaching (verse 13)?

- verses 16-21 — What might the rich man have done differently in order to be “rich toward God”?
- verses 22-34 — Jesus seems to think that the principle, “Do not worry” (verses 22-31), has something to do with giving to the poor (verse 33). What is the connection? How does our relationship with God affect our generosity toward the poor?

Luke 14:12-14 — According to Jesus, why should we invite to our banquet those who cannot reciprocate our invitation?

Luke 16:19-31 — What is Jesus’ lesson here as it concerns our treatment of the poor “at our gates”?

Luke 19:1-10 — What did Zacchaeus promise to do for the poor?

- What did he promise to do for anyone he had cheated?

HOW THE EARLY CHURCH CARED FOR THE POOR

Acts 2:40-47 — What did the new church do for those who were in need (verse 45)?

Acts 4:32-37 — God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all (through, for example, their generosity) that there were no _____ persons among them. (Recall Deuteronomy 15:4-6.)

- Case in point: _____ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Acts 9:36-42 — Tabitha was always doing _____ and helping the _____.

Acts 10:1-8 — The angel said Cornelius’s prayers and gifts to the _____ had come up as a memorial offering before God.

Acts 20:32-35 — Paul had exemplified the principle that by hard work we must _____ the _____. For Jesus himself said, “It is more blessed to _____ than to _____.”

THE GIFT FOR THE POOR IN THE JERUSALEM CHURCH

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (late AD 54/early 55) — The churches' gift currently being collected would be taken to _____.

2 Corinthians 8-9 (late 55 or early/mid 56) is entirely focused around encouraging the church in Corinth to complete the generous contribution the church had begun, in coordination with other churches, for the poor in the church in Jerusalem.

- **8:9** — Christ was _____, yet for your sake he became _____, so that you through his poverty might become _____. *What does this truth suggest that we should do if we who follow Jesus are (in any sense) rich?*

- **8:10** — A year earlier, the church in Corinth had been the _____ to give.

- **8:13-15** — What is the goal of giving to others?

- **9:6-11** — We often quote these verses when talking about our giving to the church. But what do they have to say about how we give to the poor?

- **9:12-15** — Many people give in order to help others. But Christians add to this a powerful theological spin. According to Paul here, how might God be glorified when his people help others?

Romans 15:23-33 (about AD 57) — The churches in Macedonia and Achaia made a contribution for the _____ among the Lord's people in _____. In what way did they owe this to them?

- Who would deliver this contribution? (Compare with 1 Corinthians 16:3-4.)

Acts 24:17 (about AD 58) — Paul had come to Jerusalem (in chapter 21) to bring his people _____ for the _____ and to present offerings.

TEACHINGS IN THE LETTERS

Galatians 2:9-10 — James, Cephas [Peter], and John asked Paul and Barnabas, as they went to the Gentiles, to continue to remember the _____. *Why do you think remembering these people was so important to them in the context of proclaiming the gospel?*

Galatians 6:7-10 — To whom should Christians "do good"?

Romans 12:6-8 — We do not all have equal opportunity or responsibility to give to others. Some have a gift from God for giving. If that's you, what should you do? _____

Romans 12:13 — _____ with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice _____.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 — In what way were some in the church "humiliating those who have nothing" (verse 22) in their sharing of the Lord's Supper?

- What was the solution (verses 33-34)?

Ephesians 4:28 — Why should a person work, doing something useful with their own hands?

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 — Why should God’s people work with their hands?

- so that their daily life may...
- and so that they will not...

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 — Paul and his coworkers had given the Thessalonian Christians this rule: “The one who is unwilling to _____ shall not _____.”

- Paul commanded and urged idle Christians to settle down and...

1 Timothy 5:8, 5:16 — God expects believers to care for their relatives who are in need. If they don’t, they have denied the _____ and are worse than an _____. Also, women caring for widows should continue to help them so that the _____ will not be burdened with them and can focus on helping those widows who are really in need.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 — Those who are rich in this present world should do _____, be rich in _____, and be _____ and willing to _____.

Titus 3:14 — *Food for thought:* What “urgent needs” is Paul talking about—the believers’ own needs, or the needs of others? What do you think? Do we have a greater responsibility to provide for our own “urgent needs” or for the “urgent needs” of others?

Hebrews 6:10-12 — What promise does the writer offer to those who “have helped [God’s] people and continue to help them”?

Hebrews 13:15-16 — Do not forget to do _____ and to _____ with others, for with such sacrifices God is _____.

James 1:9-11 — James speaks here to how the poor and the rich should think about *themselves*. But how might this teaching affect how they think about *each other*? What do you think?

James 1:27 — Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after _____ and _____ in their distress and to keep oneself from being _____ by the world.

James 2:1-13 — Believers in Jesus must not show _____.

- If you treat the rich man well but the poor man disrespectfully, you have discriminated among yourselves and become judges with _____ thoughts.
- God has chosen those who are _____ in the eyes of the world to be rich in _____ and to inherit the _____ he promised those who love him.
- We are doing right if we keep this royal law found in Scripture:
- _____ triumphs over _____.

James 5:1-6 — List 3 or 4 sins of the rich that James warns them against here (verses 3-6):

- The cries of those oppressed by the rich have “reached the ears of the Lord Almighty” (verse 4). What destiny do the corrupt rich therefore face (verses 1-2)?

1 John 3:16-18 — What did Jesus do for us?

- What should we therefore do for each other? And how, if we have material possessions and see a brother or sister in need?