



1. The Lord shows favoritism to the poor

"And let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him. 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 72:11–14)

2. Jesus pointed to His ministry to the poor as validation of His ministry

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me **to preach the gospel to the poor.** He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18)

3. The family of God is comprised of the weak and foolish

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.**" "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. (Matthew 11:25–26)

4. Jesus defines national Israel as poor

For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, **I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.** They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot And sold a girl for wine that they may drink. (Joel 3:1–3)

Matthew 25

Sheep and Goat Judgment

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. **All the nations will be gathered before Him;** and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and **He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.** Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. '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.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?... The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."