



Blessed is he who considers the plight of the poor. Psalm 41:1

He will preserve him and keep him alive, he will be blessed on the earth. You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. Psalm 41:2

Seven Blessings for Considering the Poor

1. Deliverance in time of trouble.
2. Preservation.
3. Revived to life again.
4. Blessed upon earth.
5. Deliverance from enemies.
6. Strength.
7. Made to recover in weakness.

1. God identifies with the poor, how we treat them is how we treat Him.

He who oppresses the poor insults him who made him, but he who has mercy on the poor honors him. Proverbs 14:31

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given. Proverbs 19:17

You can check your attitude toward God today but checking your attitude toward the poor.

2. Jesus identifies with the poor; how we treat them will determine if we will be accepted or condemned.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Matthew 25:34-36

3. Those who have opened their heart to God but closed their hearts to the poor are liars.

God's chosen fast is to feed the hungry and break the yoke of injustice.

"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Isaiah 58:6-7

Caring for the poor is the mark of saving faith.



What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:14-18

Caring for widows and orphans are marks of pure religion before God.

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

4. Early church had two main offices: Episkop and Daikon.

Episkop - oversees the word (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:1-2; Titus 1:7-9)

Diakonos - oversees the charity (Acts 6:1-3; 1 Tim 3:8)

Early church told Paul make sure he doesn't forget the poor.

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do. Galatians 2:9-10

"Atheism [i.e., the Christian faith] has been specially advanced through the loving service rendered to strangers, and through their care for the burial of the dead. It is a scandal that there is not a single Jew who is a beggar, and that the godless Galileans care not only for their own poor but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the help that we should render them." Emperor Julian to Arsacius to the high preist of Galatia (363 AD)

St. Basil of Caesarea started the first hospital around 369 AD, and Christian hospitals quickly spread in both the East and West. By the 1500s, Benedictine monasteries were running 37,000 places to care for the sick. (Catholic Encyclopedia, The Benedictine Order)

5. Helping the poor is called "mercy" and "doing justice".

Helping the poor is called "mercy" (Luk 10:37) and "doing justice" (Is 58:6-10; Lev 19:13; Jer 22:13)

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Justice + Mercy

Poverty is caused by: (Credit: Tim Keller)

- Injustice and oppression.
- Circumstantial calamity.
- Personal failure.



We help the poor by: (Credit: Tim Keller)

- Relief: Direct aid to meet physical needs.
- Development: Education, job creation, and training.
- Reform: Social reform aims to address the root causes of poverty by changing social conditions and structures.

6. Giving to the poor is not only our moral obligation but it's a gospel response.

The gospel that is moving us to help the poor, our giving and involvement with the poor will be significant, remarkable, and sacrificial.

I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

We are not only motivated by compliance or even compassion to help the poor but by the gospel.

10 Objections to Helping the Poor:

"It's their own fault."

While personal responsibility is important, the Bible commands believers to show mercy regardless of the reason for someone's hardship. Compassion isn't conditional on whether we think someone "deserves" help.

"I can't afford it."

Helping the poor isn't about the size of the gift but the heart behind it. Jesus praised the widow who gave two small coins (Mark 12:41-44) because she gave out of her poverty. Even small acts of generosity matter to God.

"They'll misuse it."

While it's wise to give thoughtfully, we are called to give without judgmental hearts. Luke 6:30 says, "Give to everyone who asks of you." Partnering with trusted organizations or ministries can ensure that help is used effectively.

"The government should handle it."

Scripture places the responsibility for helping the poor on individuals and the church, not just institutions. Isaiah 58:10 challenges believers to "spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed."

"I don't have time."

Acts of kindness don't always require large amounts of time. Jesus modeled compassion even when He was busy (Mark 6:34). Small acts of service can make a big difference.

"There are too many people in need—I can't make a difference."

Jesus fed thousands with a few loaves and fish (Matthew 14:13-21), showing that God can multiply small acts of faith. Do for one what we would wish to do to everyone.



"Helping them creates dependency."

True help empowers rather than enables. The Bible encourages teaching people to provide for themselves when possible (2 Thessalonians 3:10), but this doesn't negate the call to meet immediate needs (James 2:15-16).

"The poor are dangerous."

Jesus consistently ministered to outcasts and those society avoided. Matthew 25:40 reminds us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Courage and trust in God should drive our actions.

"There are other priorities."

While caring for one's family is biblical, the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) teaches that loving our neighbor sometimes requires putting others' urgent needs before our own convenience.

"They don't need my help—someone else will do it."

Proverbs 3:27 says, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." We are each called to respond when we see a need.