

## *Selected Scriptures from Proverbs*

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

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

A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away. 10:23

**The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.** 14:20

He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. 14:21

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

He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished. 17:5

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

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. 19:7

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

If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered. 21:13

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

He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich-- both come to poverty. 22:16

**Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, <sup>23</sup> for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.** 22:22-23

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. 28:27

**The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.** 29:7

# *Wisdom and the Poor*

## Three Causes of Poverty

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Over \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

a. Injustice by \_\_\_\_\_:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
attitude

b. Injustice by \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Application

1. Learn the \_\_\_\_\_ toward care for the poor.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ sins.

3. Live for the \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the poor.

## *Specific Laws Concerning the Poor*

<sup>NIV</sup> Leviticus 19:9-10    <sup>9</sup> "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.

<sup>NIV</sup> Leviticus 25:35-40    <sup>35</sup> "If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. <sup>36</sup> Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countryman may continue to live among you. <sup>37</sup> You must not lend him money at interest or sell him food at a profit. <sup>38</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God. <sup>39</sup> "If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. <sup>40</sup> He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee.

<sup>NIV</sup> Deuteronomy 15:1-2    <sup>1</sup> At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts. <sup>2</sup> This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite or brother, because the LORD's time for canceling debts has been proclaimed.

<sup>NIV</sup> Deuteronomy 15:7-11    <sup>7</sup> If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tight fisted toward your poor brother. <sup>8</sup> Rather be open handed and freely lend him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. <sup>10</sup> Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

<sup>11</sup> There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

<sup>NIV</sup> Deuteronomy 24:12-15 <sup>12</sup> If the man is poor, do not go to sleep with his pledge in your possession. <sup>13</sup> Return his cloak to him by sunset so that he may sleep in it. Then he will thank you, and it will be regarded as a righteous act in the sight of the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup> Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. <sup>15</sup> Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

<sup>NIV</sup> Deuteronomy 24:19-21 <sup>19</sup> When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. <sup>20</sup> When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. <sup>21</sup> When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.

<sup>NIV</sup> Exodus 23:6 "Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits.

<sup>NIV</sup> Leviticus 19:15 "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.