

World Poverty and Wise Ministry

2/24/13

Series: International ministry and mission

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Topic: world poverty

Proverbs 29:7 The righteous are concerned for the rights of the poor, The wicked does not understand *such* concern.

Principles of wise ministry to the impoverished worldwide:

1. **God owns it all** (Luke 14:33)
2. **We are stewards and we will give an account** (Luke 16:1)
3. **In new testament examples giving was directed to pastors, missionaries) and the poor** (1 Tim. 5:17-18, 1 Cor. 9:13-14, Gal. 2:9)
4. **Generous love avoids enabling sin and self destruction** (2 Thess. 3:6)
5. **The gift of wisdom is more valuable than money** (Pr. 3:13)
6. **Eternal welfare has priority over temporal welfare** (Matt. 28:18)
7. **Families are to help their own poor** (1 Tim. 5:8)
8. **The daily experience of grace produces g_____**

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord,

⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

⁶ Consequently we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

⁷ But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

⁸ I am not speaking *this* as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

9. **Worship and I_____ are the driving forces behind generosity**

1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

10. Money is a tool to grow our love

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

11. God blesses generosity with the ability to be more generous

2 Corinthians 9:6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

⁷ Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

⁹ as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness abides forever."

¹⁰ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

12. We are created to work six days a week as unto the Lord

Ephesians 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

⁶ not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

⁷ With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

⁸ knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

⁹ And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

13. The new covenant exemplifies simple, contentment and generous living

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

1 Timothy 6:8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang...

...¹⁸ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

14. Justice, mercy and faithfulness guide our generosity by a tithe

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

15. Jesus is our primary example of ministry to the poor

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

16. God's model for governments includes principles of justice and localized help for the poor.

Psalms 82:3-4 Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.

⁴ Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.

17. God's model for churches includes principles of g_____ and personalized help for the poor.
Acts 2:42-45 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

18. Christians are called to help and d_____ the poor in their churches.
Acts 4:34-35 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, ³⁵ and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need.

19. Churches are called to help and share the good news with the poor in their c_____.
Luke 10:25-37 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" ²⁷ And he answered and said, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE." ²⁹ But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. ³¹ "And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² "And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ "But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, ³⁴ and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ "And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' ³⁶ "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" ³⁷ And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

All Scripture: NASV