

World Poverty and Wise Ministry

2/10/13

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 "So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

2. We are stewards and we will give an account

Luke 16:1 Now He was also saying to the disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and this *steward* was reported to him as squandering his possessions...

3. In new testament examples giving was directed to pastors (1 Timothy 5:17-18), missionaries (1 Corinthians 9:13-14) and the poor

Galatians 2:9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *might go* to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

¹⁰ *They only asked us to remember the poor-- the very thing I also was eager to do.*

4. Generous love avoids enabling sin and self destruction

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you;

⁹ not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame.

¹⁵ And *yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

5. The gift of wisdom is more valuable than money

Proverbs 3:13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding.

¹⁴ For its profit is better than the profit of silver, And its gain than fine gold.

¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.

Proverbs 4:7 "The beginning of wisdom *is*: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.
⁸ "Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her.

6. Eternal welfare has priority over temporal welfare

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

7. Families are to help their own poor

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

8. The daily experience of grace produces generosity

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 love 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, contented 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 beyond 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.