

MOBILISE THE CHURCH TO CARE FOR THE POOR

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God commands His people to care for the poor.

Jeremiah 22:3,15,16. Did not your father, (Josiah) eat and drink and do justice and righteousness, and then it was well with him? **He defended the cause of the poor and needy: then it was well with him: "was not this to know Me?"** says the Lord .

Leviticus 19:9,10, 23:22. When you reap your field, **leave the corners and the gleanings.** When you gather your grapes **leave some behind.** This shall be for the poor and the stranger.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 Give generously to your poor brother.

Deuteronomy 24:19-21. Leave some of your harvest, out in the field for the poor.

Proverbs 11:24,25. Give generously and you will be blessed with increase.

Proverbs 14:31. He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he that honours God has mercy on the poor.

Proverbs 19:17. He that helps the poor is giving to God, and God will reward him.

Proverbs 21:13. He who does not listen to the cry of the poor for help, will also cry for help but he will not be heard.

Proverbs 22:9. Give generously to the poor and you will be blessed.

Psalms 41:1-3. Those who care for the poor will be blessed and be cared for by God in many ways.

Psalms 72:12-14. The Messiah will care for the poor and save them. (Psalm 72 is about the ministry of the Messiah.)

Psalms 82:3,4. Rulers are to care for the poor, defend and deliver them.

Psalms 10:14,18. God will care for the poor, and will act to defend them.

Isaiah 58:6,7, The fast that God has chosen, is to undo the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, break every yoke, **share your bread with the hungry, bring the poor that are homeless to your house and clothe the naked.**

Matthew 25:34,35, Jesus shall say to those on His right hand, "Come blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you.....for **I was hungry and you fed Me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink: I was a stranger and you took Me in: naked and you clothed Me: I was sick and you visited Me :I was in prison and you came to Me."** (In v40 Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren **you have done it unto Me.**" For "brethren" see *John 20:17, Matthew 28:10, Galatians 6:10, Matthew 23:8, Romans 8:29, Hebrews 2:11,12.*)

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father **is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

James 2:15,16,17 If a brother or sister be naked and without daily food, and you say to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled;" but do not meet their need, **what good have you done? Faith without works is dead.**

James 2:1-6 Do not look down on the poor man and honour the rich man. Do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons.

1John 3:16,17. If you have this world's goods and see a brother in need; if you do nothing to help him, the love of God is not dwelling in you.

(The second command is **to love your neighbour as yourself, and to do unto others as you would have them do unto you .** *Matthew 22:39, Matthew 7:12.*)

God is just, fair, and equal to all. *Matthew 5:45, Acts 14:17.*

God loves all people. *John 3:16,17, 2Peter 3:9, 1Timothy 2:4.*

God's heart is concerned for the poor. *Psalms 9:9,12,18, Psalms 10:2, 8-10, 14-18.*

God especially directs the preaching of the Gospel to the poor. *Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18, Luke 7:22, Acts 10:38.*

When you arrange for a meal to be prepared, do not invite your friends, family, close relatives, but call the poor people, the needy families, and those who are struggling to make ends meet.

This is what Jesus said to do. *Luke 14:12-14.*

Jesus said to call the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. They cannot repay you. God will reward you.

Two of the churches in Northland, New Zealand are doing this, one weekly, and the other fortnightly. The communities where these churches are located are opening up to the church, the Gospel and to the Lord Jesus.

This is practically showing the love of Jesus Christ to the world in a very powerful way, and the Churches are gaining a lot of favour in the eyes of the people. Previously the people ignored the church, but now it is very significant in their eyes. Love is a universal language and speaks to everyone's heart.

In each of these churches there is a team of volunteers who spend most of the day preparing the three course meal for which there is no charge. The church pays for the food prepared.