

## “Honoring the Poor”

Luke 4:18-19

No doubt about it. The poor and disenfranchised have high value before God.. The Scripture is filled with references which emphasize the value the Lord places on those who are hurting in our world. Today, we examine three guidelines that help us understand how to respond to the issue of poverty in our world.

### 1. Reasons why poverty exists

- Injustice

*“A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.”*  
Proverbs 13:23

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

- Inadequate medical care

*“She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.”* Mark 5:26

- Insensitivity to God’s direction

*“Drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.”*  
Proverbs 23:21

- Increasing devotion to God’s will

*“Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for My sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”* Matthew 19:29

### 2. Responses to poverty in our world

- Defend their cause

*“Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”* Proverbs 31:9

- Delight in the opportunity

*“You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me.”*  
John 12:8

- Demonstrate personal concern

*“Jesus said to His host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.’”* Luke 14:12-13

- Direct them to Jesus

*“Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God....”* Psalm 42:5a

## CONCLUSION

- How am I seeing the broken world around me?

### PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

*Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* by Ronald Sider

*The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns

“God’s Heart for the Poor” by Ken Ritz

“The Poor Will Always Be with You” by W. Maynard Pitendreigh