

*"Blessed is the one who considers the poor". (Psalm 41:1)*

### I. There Are Those Who Need Our Help

- a. "Poor" in the text describes those who are weak, helpless or who are in a low state.
- b. *Consider* – (pay attention to) the word encourages the listener to give careful thought the "poor" person's situation rather than a passing thought or a quick look.
- c. Read Deut 15:4-5; Psalm 113:7-9; Prov 13:23, 14:21, 31; Matthew 24:35; 1 John 3:17-18
- d. There is a promise in the passage that one will be blessed when they think deeply and respond to the plight of those who are less fortunate.
- e. 66% homeless that have problems with alcohol, drug abuse, or mental illness.
- f. 22% of homeless population suffer from a severe and persistent mental illness.
- g. 40% of homeless population are veterans/vets.
- g. Federal poverty level income: \$12,060 for individuals; \$16,240 for a family of 2; \$20,420 for a family of 3; \$24,600 for a family of 4

### II. Some Reasons Why Poverty Exists

- a. Injustice causes poverty. Sometimes immoral actions of others cause poverty. Unscrupulous and greedy people, and scammers prey on the weak, kind and trusting
- b. Physical and Mental problems cause poverty. Medical conditions with or without insurance could lead to poverty.
- c. Eroding job opportunities.
- d. Sinful living can cause poverty. Bad living and bad company can result in insufficient living.
- e. Laziness causes poverty. There are some who live in poverty because they simply do not want to work.
- f. Some will take a vow of poverty to follow God's will. (Matthew 19:29) The apostles and disciples left businesses and their livelihood to depend on the provision of the Lord.

### III. What is the Christian Response to the Poor?

- a. All are created by God in the image of God. No human being is to be thrown away or discarded.
- b. God's image compels God's people to love all people.
- c. Recall the story of the Good Samaritan. We are to render help and hope.
- d. Be kind to the poor. Regardless of how they got that way, we should not despise them or ridicule people in need.
- e. Defend the poor. *Speak up and judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.* (Prov 31:9)
- f. Missions and Special Missions. What practical steps can we take to alleviate suffering?
- g. What action will we take? What will we consider?