

The
New Testament
And The
Old Testament
On
Distributive Justice
And
Social Justice

Excerpts Compiled By Brian C. McDonagh

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On The Accumulation Of Wealth

¹"If you want to be perfect, go sell everything you own! Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and be my follower." When the young man heard this, he was sad, because he was very rich. Jesus said to his disciples, "It's terribly hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of heaven! In fact, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom." Mt. 19:21-24

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "It's hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom!" The disciples were shocked to hear this. So Jesus told them again, "It's terribly hard to get into God's kingdom! In fact, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom." Mk. 10:21-5

You are evil, and you lie and cheat to make yourselves rich. You are powerful and prosperous, but you refuse to help the poor get the justice they deserve. You need to be punished, and so I will take revenge. Jr. 5:27-9

1. The translation is the Contemporary English Version.

King Jehoiakim, you are doomed! You built a palace with large rooms upstairs. You put in big windows and used cedar paneling and red paint. But you were unfair and forced the builders to work without pay. More cedar in your palace doesn't make you a better king than your father Josiah. He always did right - he gave justice to the poor and was honest. Jr. 22:13-5

The Lord has said that they don't even know how to do right. They have become rich from violence and robbery. And so the Lord God has sworn that they will be surrounded. Enemies will break through their defenses and steal their treasures. Am. 3:10-1

You rich people are violent, and everyone tells lies. Because of your sins, I will wound you and leave you ruined and defenseless. Mic. 6:12-3

You're doomed! You made your family rich at the expense of others. Hb 2:9

The wicked may collect riches and clothes in abundance as easily as clay. But God's people will wear clothes taken from them and divide up their riches. No homes built by the wicked will outlast a cocoon or a shack. Those sinners may go to bed rich, but they will wake up poor. Terror will strike at night like a flood or a storm. Then a scorching wind will sweep them away

without showing mercy, as they try to escape. At last, the wind will celebrate because they are gone. Job 27:16-23

You rich people are in for trouble. You have already had an easy life! You well-fed people are in for trouble. You will go hungry! Lk. 6:24-5

A rich man's farm produced a big crop, and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything." Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. Then I'll say to myself, 'You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.' " But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?" "This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God." Lk. 12:16-21

Any of God's people who are poor should be glad that he thinks so highly of them. But any who are rich should be glad when God makes them humble. Rich people will disappear like wild flowers scorched by the burning heat of the sun. The flowers lose their blossoms, and their beauty is destroyed. That is how the rich will disappear, as they go about their business. Jas. 1:9-11

You rich people should cry and weep! Terrible things are going to happen to you. Your treasures have already rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your money has rusted, and the rust will be evidence against you, as it burns your body like fire. Yet you keep on storing up wealth in these last days. You refused to pay the people who worked in your fields, and now their unpaid wages are shouting out against you. The Lord All-Powerful has surely heard the cries of the workers who harvested your crops. While here on earth, you have thought only of filling your own stomachs and having a good time. But now you are like fat cattle on their way to be butchered. You have condemned and murdered innocent people, who couldn't even fight back. Jas. 5:1-6

A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished. Pr. 28:20

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. Pr. 11:28

Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Lk. 6:25

The stingy are eager to get rich and are unaware that poverty awaits them. Pr. 28:22

There was once a rich man who wore expensive clothes and every day ate the best food. But a poor beggar named

Lazarus was brought to the gate of the rich man's house. He was happy just to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. His body was covered with sores, and dogs kept coming up to lick them. The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honor next to Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. He went to hell and was suffering terribly. When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side, he said to Abraham, "Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch my tongue. I'm suffering terribly in this fire." Abraham answered, "My friend, remember that while you lived, you had everything good, and Lazarus had everything bad. Now he is happy, and you are in pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over." But the rich man said, "Abraham, then please send Lazarus to my father's home. Let him warn my five brothers, so they won't come to this horrible place." Abraham answered, "Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should pay attention to that." Then the rich man said, "No, that's not enough! If only someone from the dead would go to them, they would listen and turn to God." So Abraham said, "If they won't pay attention to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even to someone who comes back from the dead." Lk. 16:19-31

God gives the hungry good things to eat, and sends the rich away with nothing. Lk. 1:53

You abuse the poor and demand heavy taxes from them. You have built expensive homes, but you won't enjoy them; you have planted vineyards, but you will get no wine. I am the Lord, and I know your terrible sins. You cheat honest people and take bribes; you rob the poor of justice. Am. 5:11-12

You claim to be rich and successful and to have everything you need. But you don't know how bad off you are. You are pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Rev. 3:17

My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others. Suppose a rich person wearing fancy clothes and a gold ring comes to one of your meetings. And suppose a poor person dressed in worn-out clothes also comes. You must not give the best seat to the one in fancy clothes and tell the one who is poor to stand at the side or sit on the floor. That is the same as saying that some people are better than others, and you would be acting like a crooked judge. My dear friends, pay attention. God has given a lot of faith to the poor people in this world. He has also promised them a share in his kingdom that he will give to everyone who loves him. You mistreat the poor. But isn't it the rich who boss you around and drag you off to court? Aren't they the ones who make fun of your Lord? You will do all right, if you obey the most important law in the Scriptures. It is the law that commands us to love others as much as we love

ourselves. But if you treat some people better than others, you have done wrong, and the Scriptures teach that you have sinned. If you obey every law except one, you are still guilty of breaking them all. Jas. 2:1-10

On Money

The poor have a hard life, but being content is as good as an endless feast. It's better to obey the Lord and have only a little, than to be very rich and terribly confused. Pr. 15:15-6

It's better to be honest and poor than to be dishonest and rich. Pr. 16:8

It's better to be poor and live right, than to be rich and dishonest. Pr. 28:6

Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud. Pr. 16:19

Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse. Pr. 28:6

The rich think highly of themselves, but anyone poor and sensible sees right through them. Pr. 28:11

One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. Pr. 13:7

The rich are wise in their own eyes; one who is poor and discerning sees how deluded they are. Pr. 28:11

Anyone who refuses to get rich by cheating others will live a long time. Pr. 28:16

Don't be selfish and eager to get rich - you will end up worse off than you can imagine. Pr. 28:22

Cheat the poor to make profit or give gifts to the rich - either way you lose. Pr. 22:16

Give up trying so hard to get rich. Pr. 23:4

Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. Pr. 23:5

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 1 Ti. 6:17

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Pr. 23:4

They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things. Mk. 4:19

Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. [9th Commandment] Ex. 20:17

Don't store up treasures on earth. Mt. 6:19

You cannot be the slave of two masters! You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Mt. 6:24

You cannot serve both God and money.” Lk. 16:12

Don't fall in love with money. He. 13:5

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. 1 Tm. 6:10

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Ec. 5:10

“May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! Ac. 8:19

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have. He. 13:5

“If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not treat it like a business deal; charge no interest.

Ex. 22:25

The Lord said: Don't charge interest when you lend money to any of my people who are in need. Ex. 22:25

When you lend money to people, you are allowed to keep something of theirs as a guarantee that they will pay back the

loan. But don't take one or both of their millstones, or else they
may starve. They need these stones for grinding grain into flour
to make bread. Dt. 24:6

God's Identification With The Poor

The Lord is ready to accuse and judge all nations. He will even judge you rulers and leaders of his own nation. You destroyed his vineyard and filled your houses by robbing the poor. The Lord All-Powerful says, "You have crushed my people and rubbed in the dirt the faces of the poor." Is. 3:13-5

The Lord helps the poor, but he smears the wicked in the dirt. Ps. 147:6

You people are in for trouble! You have made cruel and unfair laws that let you cheat the poor and needy and rob widows and orphans. But what will you do when you are fiercely attacked and punished by foreigners? Where will you run for help? Where will you hide your valuables? How will you escape being captured or killed? The Lord is still angry, and he isn't through with you yet! Is. 10:1-4

Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered. Pr. 21:13

Sinners will soon disappear, never to be found, but the poor will take the land and enjoy a big harvest. Ps. 37:10-1

When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels, he will sit on his royal throne. The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, "My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created. When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me." Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear or visit you while you were sick or in jail?" The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." Then the king will say to those on his left, "Get away from me! You are under God's curse. Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! I was hungry, but you did not give me anything to eat, and I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink. I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me, and I was naked, but you did not give me any clothes to wear. I was sick and in jail, but you did not take care of me." Then the people will ask, "Lord, when did we fail to help

you when you were hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail?" The king will say to them, "Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me." Then Jesus said, "Those people will be punished forever. But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life." Mt. 25:31-46

"Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy." Ez. 16:49

God lifts the poor and needy from dust and ashes, and he lets them take part in ruling his people. Ps. 113:7-8

God will bless you people who are poor. His kingdom belongs to you! God will bless you hungry people. You will have plenty to eat! Lk. 6:20-1

Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Lk. 6:20

Our Lord, you lift the poor and homeless out of the garbage dump and give them places of honor in royal palaces. 1 S. 2:8

No one in Israel should ever be poor. Dt. 15:4

After the Lord your God gives land to each of you, there may be poor Israelites in the town where you live. If there are, then

don't be mean and selfish with your money. Be careful! Don't say to yourself, "Soon it will be the seventh year, and then I won't be able to get my money back." It would be horrible for you to think that way and to be so selfish that you refuse to help the poor. They are your relatives, and if you don't help them, they may ask the Lord to decide whether you have done wrong. And he will say that you are guilty. You should be happy to give the poor what they need, because then the Lord will make you successful in everything you do. There will always be some Israelites who are poor and needy. That's why I am commanding you to be generous with them. . . . The more the Lord has given you, the more you should give them. I am commanding you to obey the Lord as a reminder that you were slaves in Egypt before he set you free. Dt. 15:7-15

The poor will eat and be full, and all who worship you will be thankful and live in hope. Ps. 22:26

But you, Lord, tell them, "I will do something! The poor are mistreated and helpless people moan. I'll rescue all who suffer." Ps. 12:5

You protect the helpless from those in power; you save the poor and needy from those who hurt them. Ps. 35:10

I am poor and needy, but, Lord God, you care about me, and you come to my rescue. Ps. 40:17

You, Lord God, bless everyone who cares for the poor, and you rescue those people in times of trouble. Ps. 41:1

The Lord will listen when the homeless cry out, and he will never forget his people in prison. Ps. 69:33

Our Lord, I know that you defend the homeless and see that the poor are given justice. Your people will praise you and will live with you because they do right. Ps. 140:12

God gives justice to the poor and food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free and heals blind eyes. He gives a helping hand to everyone who falls. Ps. 146:7-8

If you mistreat the poor, you insult your Creator; if you are kind to them, you show him respect. Pr. 14:31

Caring for the poor is lending to the Lord, and you will be well repaid. Pr. 19:17

Don't take advantage of the poor or cheat them in court. The Lord is their defender, and what you do to them, he will do to you. Pr. 22:22-3

The poor and needy will find pastures for their sheep and will live in safety. Is. 14:30

The poor and the needy will celebrate and shout because of the Lord. Is. 29:19

When the poor and needy are dying of thirst and cannot find water, I, the Lord God of Israel, will come to their rescue. I won't forget them. Is. 41:17

The Lord's Spirit has come to me, because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers. Lk. 4:18-9

“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the Lord. “I will protect them from those who malign them.” Ps. 12:5

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Ps. 140:12

With righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. Is. 11:4

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. Ps. 103:6

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Lk 6:21

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. Ps. 9:18

“The good news is proclaimed to the poor. Lk. 7:22

On Distributive Justice

Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and said, "There's one thing you still need to do. Go sell everything you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come with me." When the man heard Jesus say this, he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich. Mk. 10:21-5

"There is one thing you still need to do. Go and sell everything you own! Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and be my follower." When the man heard this, he was sad, because he was very rich. Jesus saw how sad the man was. So he said, "It's terribly hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom! In fact, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom." Lk. 18:22-5

All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Ac. 2:44-5

The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own,

and they shared everything they had with each other. In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it. Ac. 4:32-5

You know that our Lord Jesus Christ was kind enough to give up all his riches and become poor, so that you could become rich. 2 Co. 8:9

It doesn't matter how much you have. What matters is how much you are willing to give from what you have. 2 Co. 8:12

I am not trying to make life easier for others by making life harder for you. But it is only fair for you to share with them when you have so much, and they have so little. Later, when they have more than enough, and you are in need, they can share with you. Then everyone will have a fair share, just as the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered too much had nothing left. Those who gathered only a little had all they needed." 2 Co. 8:13-5

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Lk. 12:33

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." 2 Co. 9:9

Please help the king to be honest and fair just like you, our God. Let him be honest and fair with all your people, especially the poor. Let peace and justice rule every mountain and hill. Let the king defend the poor, rescue the homeless, and crush everyone who hurts them. Ps. 72:1-4

The king rescues the homeless when they cry out, and he helps everyone who is poor and in need. The king has pity on the weak and the helpless and protects those in need. He cares when they hurt, and he saves them from cruel and violent deaths. Ps. 72:12-4

The Lord said: Plant and harvest your crops for six years, but let the land rest during the seventh year. The poor are to eat what they want from your fields, vineyards, and olive trees during that year, and when they have all they want from your fields, leave the rest for wild animals. Ex. 23:10

When you harvest your olives, don't try to get them all for yourself, but leave some for the poor. And when you pick your grapes, go over the vines only once, then let the poor have what is left. You lived in poverty as slaves in Egypt until the Lord your God rescued you. That's why I am giving you these laws. Dt. 24:19-22

Every seven years we will let our fields rest, and we will cancel all debts. Ne. 10:31

God's Identification With The Oppressed

After the death of the king of Egypt, the Israelites still complained because they were forced to be slaves. They cried out for help, and God heard their loud cries. He did not forget the promise he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and because he knew what was happening to his people, he felt sorry for them. Ex. 2:23-5

I have seen how my people are suffering as slaves in Egypt, and I have heard them beg for my help because of the way they are being mistreated. I feel sorry for them, and I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians. . . . Call together the leaders of Israel and tell them that the God who was worshiped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has appeared to you. Tell them I have seen how terribly they are being treated in Egypt, and I promise to lead them out of their troubles. Ex. 3:7-17

They bowed down and worshiped the Lord because they knew that he had seen their suffering and was going to help them. Ex. 4:31

It is the day when the Lord's mighty power rescued you from Egypt, where you were slaves. Ex. 13:3-4

On Immigration

Joseph took five of his brothers to the king and told him, "My father and my brothers have come from Canaan. They have brought their sheep, goats, cattle, and everything else they own to the region of Goshen." Then he introduced his brothers to the king, who asked them, "What do you do for a living?" "Sir, we are shepherds," was their answer. "Our families have always raised sheep. But in our country all the pastures are dried up, and our sheep have no grass to eat. So we, your servants, have come here. Please let us live in the region of Goshen." The king said to Joseph, "It's good that your father and brothers have arrived. I will let them live anywhere they choose in the land of Egypt, but I suggest that they settle in Goshen, the best part of our land. I would also like for your finest shepherds to watch after my own sheep and goats." Gn. 47:1-6

At the time there were only a few of us, and we were homeless. We wandered from nation to nation, from one country to another. God did not let anyone mistreat our people. 1 Ch. 16:19-22

Hide our refugees! Don't turn them away. Let our people live in your country and find safety here." Is. 16:3-4

The Lord said: Do not mistreat or abuse foreigners who live among you. Remember, you were foreigners in Egypt. Ex. 22:21

“Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. Ex. 23:9

Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. Lev. 19:33-4

The Lord defends the rights of orphans and widows. He cares for foreigners and gives them food and clothing. And you should also care for them, because you were foreigners in Egypt. Dt. 10:18-9

Also invite the poor, including Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows. Remember that you used to be slaves in Egypt, so obey these laws. Dt. 16:9-12

“I am the Lord your God, and I demand equal justice both for you Israelites and for those foreigners who live among you. Lev. 24:22

When you harvest your grain, always leave some of it standing around the edges of your fields and don't pick up what falls on

the ground. Leave it for the poor and for those foreigners who live among you. Lev. 23:22

If you forget to bring in a stack of harvested grain, don't go back in the field to get it. Leave it for the poor, including foreigners, orphans, and widows, and the Lord will make you successful in everything you do. Dt. 24:19-20

If any of your people become poor and unable to support themselves, you must help them, just as you are supposed to help foreigners who live among you. Don't take advantage of them by charging any kind of interest or selling them food for profit. Instead, honor me by letting them stay where they now live. Lev. 25:35-7

Every year you are to give ten percent of your harvest to the Lord. But every third year, this ten percent must be given to the poor who live in your town, including Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows. That way, they will have enough to eat. Then you must pray: Our Lord and our God, you have said that ten percent of my harvest is sacred. I have obeyed your command and given this to the poor, including the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows. Dt. 26:12-3

Every third year, instead of using the ten percent of your harvest for a big celebration, bring it into town and put it in a community storehouse. The Levites have no land of their own,

so you must give them food from the storehouse. You must also give food to the poor who live in your town, including orphans, widows, and foreigners. If they have enough to eat, then the Lord your God will be pleased and make you successful in everything you do. Dt. 14:29

When runaway slaves from other countries come to Israel and ask for protection, you must not hand them back to their owners. Instead, you must let them choose which one of your towns they want to live in. Don't be cruel to runaway slaves. Dt. 23:15-6

Make sure that orphans and foreigners are treated fairly. Dt. 24:17

Then you and your family must celebrate by eating a meal at the place of worship to thank the Lord your God for giving you such a good harvest. And remember to invite the Levites and the foreigners who live in your town. Dt. 26:11

If you hire poor people to work for you, don't hold back their pay, whether they are Israelites or foreigners who live in your town. Pay them their wages at the end of each day, because they live in poverty and need the money to survive. If you don't pay them on time, they will complain about you to the Lord, and he will punish you. Dt. 24:14-5

We ask the Lord to put a curse on anyone who keeps the poor from getting justice, whether these poor are foreigners, widows, or orphans. Dt. 27:20

The people themselves cheat and rob; they abuse the poor and take advantage of foreigners. Ez. 22:29

I, the Lord All-Powerful, tell you, "See that justice is done and be kind and merciful to one another! Don't mistreat widows or orphans or foreigners or anyone who is poor, and stop making plans to hurt each other." Zec. 7:8-9

Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home. Ro. 12:13

The Lord loves good people and looks after strangers. Ps. 146:8-9

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them." Lv. 19:33

We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 1 Ch. 29:15

"Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. I dwell with you as a foreigner, a stranger, as all my ancestors were. Ps. 39:12

The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. Ps. 146:9

Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner. Jr. 22:3

Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Zec. 7:10

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 1 P. 1:17

We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 1 Ch. 29:15

"Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. I dwell with you as a foreigner, a stranger, as all my ancestors were. Ps. 39:12

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hb. 13:2

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 3 Jn. 1:5

Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. Lv. 19:10

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. Lv. 19:34

On One's Love For All Others

“Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, don't stop that person from slapping you on the other cheek. If someone wants to take your coat, don't try to keep back your shirt. Give to everyone who asks and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you. Treat others just as you want to be treated.” Lk. 6:27-30

“Love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven. He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel. Have pity on others, just as your Father has pity on you.” Lk. 6:35-6

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.” Lv. 19:18

Don't forget those who are suffering, but imagine that you are there with them. He. 13:3

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Mt. 19:19

“Love others as much as you love yourself.” Mt. 22:39

“Love others as much as you love yourself.” Mk. 12:31

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Lk. 10:27

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Jn 13:33

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” Jn. 15:12

“This is my command: Love each other.” Jn. 15:17

Let love be your only debt! If you love others, you have done all that the Law demands. Ro. 13:9

Love others as much as you love yourself. No one who loves others will harm them. So love is all that the Law demands. Ro. 13:10

Love should be your guide. 1 Co. 14:1

All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. Ga. 5:14

Be good to each other and to everyone else. 1 Th. 5:15

We know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us. That's why we must give our lives for each other. 1 Jn. 3:16

When we love others, we know that we belong to the truth, and we feel at ease in the presence of God. 1 Jn. 3:19

My dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows that we have been given new life. We are now God's children, and we know him. God is love, and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him. God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we must love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is truly in our hearts. 1 Jn. 4:7-8

God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us. If we truly love others and live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the day of judgment. A real love for others will chase those worries away. The thought of being punished is what makes us afraid. It shows that we have not really learned to love. We love because God loved us first. But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we can see? The commandment that God has given us is: "Love God and love each other!" 1 Jn. 4:16-21

On Other-Focused People

The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern. Pr. 29:7

A good person is generous and never stops giving. Ps. 37:21

Words of wisdom come when good people speak for justice. Ps. 37:30

Be fair to the poor and to orphans. Defend the helpless and everyone in need. Rescue the weak and homeless from the powerful hands of heartless people. Ps. 82:3-4

Sometimes you can become rich by being generous or poor by being greedy. Generosity will be rewarded: Give a cup of water, and you will receive a cup of water in return. Charge too much for grain, and you will be cursed; sell it at a fair price, and you will be praised. Pr. 11:24-6

Giving to the poor will keep you from poverty, but if you close your eyes to their needs, everyone will curse you. Pr. 28:27

You must defend those who are helpless and have no hope. Be fair and give justice to the poor and homeless. Pr. 31:8-9

I'll tell you what it really means to worship the Lord. Remove the chains of prisoners who are chained unjustly. Free those who are abused! Share your food with everyone who is hungry; share your home with the poor and homeless. Give clothes to those in need. Is. 58:6-7

Give your food to the hungry and care for the homeless. Then your light will shine in the dark; your darkest hour will be like the noonday sun. Is. 58:10

What I like best is showing kindness, justice, and mercy to everyone on earth. Jr. 9:24

When people ask you for something, give it to them. When they want to borrow money, lend it to them. Mt. 5:42

The Lord loves justice and fairness, and he is kind to everyone everywhere on earth. Ps. 33:4-5

Don't judge others, and God won't judge you. Don't be hard on others, and God won't be hard on you. Forgive others, and God will forgive you. If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated. Lk. 6:37-8

Although we are poor, we have made many people rich. And though we own nothing, everything is ours. 2 Co. 6:10

God loves people who love to give. God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others. The Scriptures say, "God freely gives his gifts to the poor, and always does right." God gives seed to farmers and provides everyone with food. He will increase what you have, so that you can give even more to those in need. You will be blessed in every way, and you will be able to keep on being generous. Then many people will thank God when we deliver your gift. What you are doing is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God. The way in which you have proved yourselves by this service will bring honor and praise to God. 2 Co. 9:7-15

My friends, what good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show that you really do have faith? Can that kind of faith save you? If you know someone who doesn't have any clothes or food, you shouldn't just say, "I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat." What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead! Jas. 2:14-7

Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud. Pr. 16:19

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Pr. 11:25

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Pr. 22:9

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Co. 9:11

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Ti. 6:18

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Is. 1:17

On The Environment

“No land may be permanently bought or sold. It all belongs to me - it isn't your land, and you only live there for a little while.”

Lev. 25:23

I have never mistreated the land I farmed and made it mourn.

Job 31:38

The earth and everything on it belong to the Lord. The world and its people belong to him. The Lord placed it all on the oceans and rivers. Ps. 24:1-3

It is time to destroy everyone who has destroyed the earth. Re.

11:18