



Sermon Notes – November 18, 2018

[#56] *God's Blessing is On the Poor*

Deuteronomy 24:8–25:4

Children's Sermon: Going My Way is Death

Illustration: Which branches are alive?

Jesus is like a tree or a vine:

Colossians 1:16–17

¹⁶ For **by [Jesus] all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...—all things were created **through him** and **for him**. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**.

What will happen to us if we go our own way?

Do You See God in Your Relationships?

Notes:

- People are Valuable
- People are Wicked
- God's Love...People are Rescued!



Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

God wants Israel to "tell the truth" in their relationships.
God expects Israel to treat his creatures with dignity,
especially the weak & needy.



No one in this passage has worldly power or leverage to make you "do the right thing." Fear of God is the given motivation.

True Testimony toward God's Representatives (24:8-9)

⁹ Remember what the Lord your God did to Miriam on the way as you came out of Egypt.

False Testimony against Poor Neighbors (24:10-15)

Concerning a Pledge for a Loan

¹² And if he is a **poor man**...¹³ You shall restore to him **the pledge** as the sun sets, *that he may sleep in his cloak* and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before the Lord your God.

Concerning Paying a Hired Worker Who is Poor

¹⁵ *You shall give him his wages on the same day*, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), **lest he cry against you to the Lord, and you be guilty of sin**.

Concerning those Guilty by Association

¹⁶ ...*Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.*

Do Not Pervert Justice (24:17-25:4)

Treat the Poor & Defenseless with Dignity

¹⁷ “**You shall not pervert** the **justice** due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow’s garment in pledge,¹⁸ but you shall **remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you** from there; therefore I command you to do this. ...

²² You shall **remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt**; therefore I command you to do this.

Treat the Convicted Criminal with Dignity

³ *Forty stripes may be given him, but not more, lest..., your brother be degraded in your sight.*

Treat your Animals with Dignity (4)

Why Especially the Weak & Needy?

Luke 6:20–26

²⁰ ...“**Blessed are you who are poor**, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But **woe to you who are rich**, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Matthew 11:25–26

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for **such was your gracious will**.

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Do you see the divine truth, goodness and beauty of our God given poverty, weakness & neediness?



An Illustration of our Universal Neediness (The Vine)

John 15:5–6 (Cf. Rom. 11:17–24 - An Olive Tree)

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**. ⁶ *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers*; and the branches are gathered, *thrown into the fire*, and burned.

- ✓ What then is our most urgent need in this short life?
- ✓ Do you see why it is far more difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God? (Cf. Matthew 19:24)

Example of Backwards Thinking:

1. It is evident that God loves me because I am successful.
2. Unbeliever: My success or failure depends mostly upon me. (Cf. James 4:13–17)
3. God is punishing me when life is difficult.
 - ✓ Economic?
 - ✓ Physical?
 - ✓ Spiritual?

Biblical Thinking

We have been granted to see our weakness and even to suffer!

2 Corinthians 11:30

³⁰ If I must boast, *I will boast of* the things that show **my weakness**.

Philippians 1:27–29

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For *it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should* not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake...

1 Peter 4:12–16

¹² **Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial** when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you *share Christ's sufferings*, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests

upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet *if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.* (Cf. 2 Timothy 3:12)

Two Kinds of Suffering:

1. Suffering for doing evil/foolishness...
2. Suffering for Christ:
 - ✓ Suffering as a Christian (Sin's Curse - Job Suffering)
 - ✓ Suffering for being a Christian (Direct Persecution)

Realign How We Look at the World!

2 Corinthians 5:11b–12

¹¹ ...But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those *who boast about outward appearance* and not about what is in the heart.

2 Corinthians 5:16–19

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, *we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.* ¹⁷ Therefore, *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.* The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled us to himself** and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, *not counting their trespasses against them*, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.



Has this become small or does it feel common to us?!