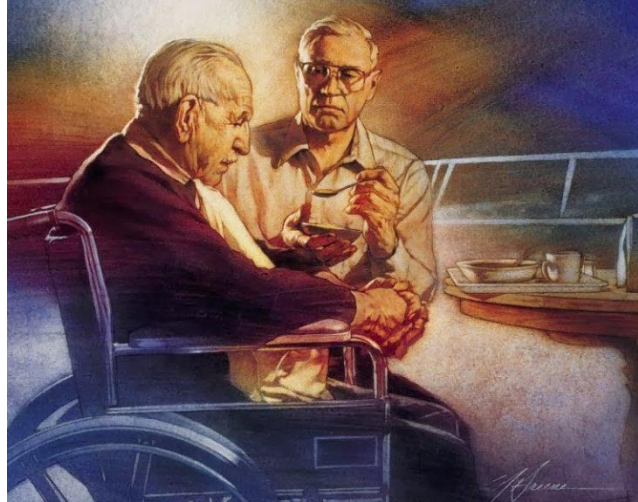
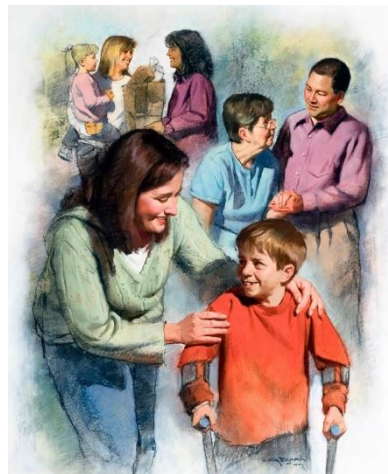


# UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE





"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34)

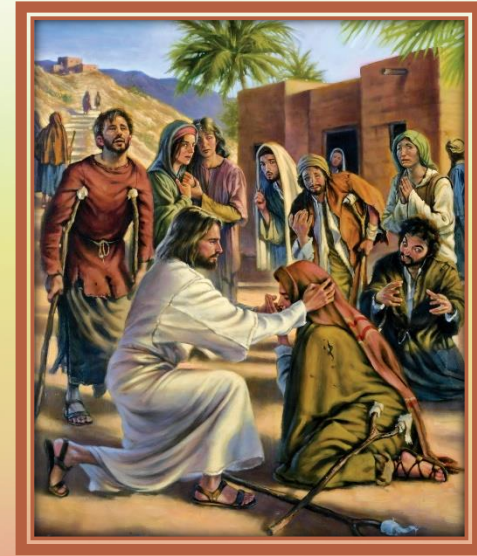


## Who are the least of Jesus' brethren?

The hungry, the thirsty, the migrant, the beggars, the sick, the prisoners (Mt. 25:37-40). Other Bible verses mention the deaf, the blind, and the cripple.

Let's study some Bible examples to learn how we should treat "the least of My brethren."

Finally, ask yourself: What can I do to help the least of Jesus' brethren?



God cares for those in need:

- The ministry of Jesus
- Humanitarian laws



Biblical examples:

- Caring for the poor
- Taking care of those in need



GOD CARES FOR  
THOSE IN NEED



# THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

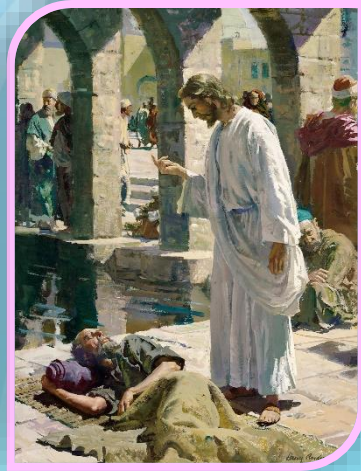
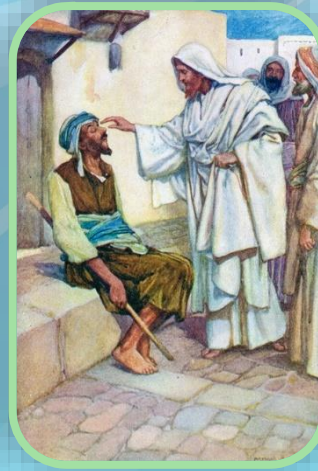
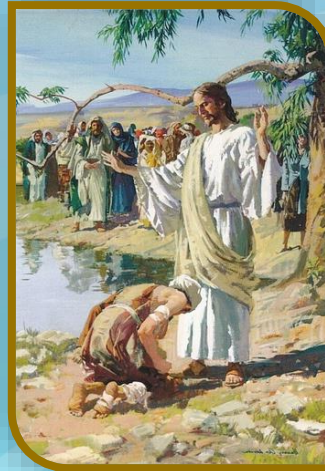
**"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.'"** (Luke 7:22)

**Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 in the Synagogue of Nazareth. This passage is a definition of the Messiah's ministry.**

**Jesus treated those in need quite differently to how they were usually treated in that time.**

**People thought they were suffering for their sins, so they were treated as if they had been cursed by God. Jesus loved them and saw them as possible citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**He tried to fulfill their needs and to share the hope of the Gospel with them.**



# HUMANITARIAN LAWS

**"If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother," (Deuteronomy 15:7)**

**Poverty will never be eradicated (Dt. 15:11; Mr. 14:7).**

**Therefore, God gave Israel laws to defend those in need:**

**Exodus 23:10-11**



**Lands were not sown every seventh year, and the poor could eat from their fruit**

**Leviticus 19:14**

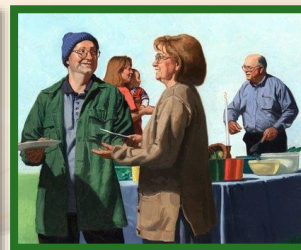


**It was forbidden to curse the deaf or to make the cripple stumble**

**Leviticus 23:22**



**Part of the yearly harvest had to be left behind for those in need**



**God promised blessings for those who help them (Ps. 41:1; Pr. 28:27).**

**God's love for those in need is an inspiration for us. How could we not love and care for those in need?**



# BIBLICAL EXAMPLES



# CARING FOR THE POOR

"[...] Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor [...] I give half of my goods to the poor;" (Luke 18:22; 19:8)

There are similarities between the story of the rich young man (Mt. 19:16-22; Mr. 10:17-22; Lk. 18:18-23) and Zacchaeus' (Lk. 19:1-10). The way they treated the poor reflected their hearts and their relationship with Jesus.

## SIMILARITIES

Both were rich

Both wanted to meet Jesus

Both longed for eternal life



## RICH YOUNG MAN

Jesus asked him to give to the poor

He needed to give everything away

He rejected Jesus

Jesus got sad because of his greed for money

## ZACCHAEUS

He willingly offered to give to the poor

He needed to give away half of his wealth

He accepted Jesus

Jesus was happy because he had accepted salvation

## DIFFERENCES



# TAKING CARE OF THOSE IN NEED

"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?'" (Job 1:8)

Why was Job "a blameless man"? Job 29:12-16 NVI.

I rescued the poor who cried for help (12a)

And the fatherless who had none to assist them (12b)

The one who was dying blessed me (13a)

I made the widow's heart sing (13b)

I put on righteousness as my clothing (14)

I was eyes to the blind (15a)

And feet to the lame (15b)

I was a father to the needy (16a)

I took up the case of the stranger (16b)



Let's learn from Job. He was proactive by identifying the needs around him and acting accordingly.

**“There are many to whom life is a painful struggle; they feel their deficiencies and are miserable and unbelieving; they think they have nothing for which to be grateful. Kind words, looks of sympathy, expressions of appreciation, would be to many a struggling and lonely one as the cup of cold water to a thirsty soul. A word of sympathy, an act of kindness, would lift burdens that rest heavily upon weary shoulders. And every word or deed of unselfish kindness is an expression of the love of Christ for lost humanity.”**

**E. G. W. (Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, cp. 2, p. 23)**