

Titus 2 Women's Ministry Gathering
Saturday, Feb. 1st, 2025

Proverbs 31:20 - The Generous Giver

Proverbs 31:20

“She opens (“spreads out”) and reaches out (“sends out/stretches out”)	her hand her hands	to the poor (‘ani) to the needy. (‘Ebyon)
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I. The Generous Giver:

A. She sees _____.

B. She sees their _____.

C. She is _____ to help their needs.

D. She is _____ to those in need.

Without industry (initiative/diligence/hard-work) and using our God-given gifts and resources, we will not be able to turn a profit nor have an abundance to give generously to others.

II. Who are those in greatest need?

A. *Many of those in extreme _____ poverty are also
in the area of the world where there is the greatest _____ poverty!*

B. *The _____ of poverty*

C. _____ *Poverty*

D. *The _____ dimensions of poorest of the Poor*

III. Our own Poverty

See Mt. 5:3, Psalm 53:1-3, Rom. 3:11-27, Eph. 2:1-10, 2 Cor. 5:21 and 8:9, Phil. 3:2-21, 1st Pet.2:24.

A. Blessed (happy) are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

B. God is the _____ Giver!

We are called to open our hands to meet other's temporary physical needs AND open our mouths and hearts to share about our eternal spiritual need.

**All people have the same fundamental spiritual need in their hearts.
As you reach out your hand to others in need,
share your own poverty of spirit and the riches of Christ in the Gospel!**

Proverbs 31:20 Questions for Reflection and Application

(Questions 3, 5-6 taken from Brenda Leavenworth's *Far Above Rubies* book, pages 124 & 126.)

1. Spend time reflecting on your greatest need, your own spiritual poverty. See Psalm 53:1-3, Rom. 3:11-27, Eph. 2:1-10, Mt. 5:3, 2 Cor. 5:21 and 8:9, 1 Pet.2:24. When is the last time you shared about your own spiritual neediness and God's riches of grace and imputed righteousness to you with someone? How can sharing your spiritual poverty be an opportunity to magnify God's riches in Christ?
2. Read Deut. 15:7-11, 1 Jn. 3:17, 2 Cor. 9:6-7 with special attention given to how the heart is connected to giving. What does giving from the heart look like? What does it NOT look like?
3. God calls us to give our best, sacrificially and with love. If we were honest, we would agree that most people [including maybe even ourselves?] give out of excess or when it is convenient: the canned goods we don't want, haven't used, or are expired; the stained clothes that take up room in the closet. When was the last time you really blessed someone with the best you could offer, sacrificially and warm heartedly?
4. Consider how the Lord provides for the generous: Prov. 11:24-25, Prov. 14:21, Prov. 22:9, Psalm 37:25-26 and Psalm 41:1
5. Martin Luther said, "A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing." List several ways you could give which costs you something.
6. Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also for the interest of others." What hinders you from serving others in a loving, sacrificial way?
7. Besides giving money, what are other means/resources/abilities one can use to be generous to those in need? Which of these abilities can you see yourself developing/employing to be a more generous giver?

8. Think about the skills and resources God has given you. How would you like to develop these more abundantly? How can you “turn a profit” so that you might join the Proverbs 31 woman in extending your hand/resources/abilities/time etc... to the poor and needy? Is there anything holding you back from being industrious?

9. Considering the “structural” forces at work keeping generations of poor bound to suffering, hopelessness and poverty, what is one way you can join Wayne Grudem’s call from Isaiah 58:6 to “loose the bonds of wickedness....let the oppressed go free...” for those in extreme poverty?

10. Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (Christian authors of When Helping Hurts) share that while Americans tend to think of poverty in terms of a lack of material things, this is not how the poor themselves evaluate their situation (although they do lack many of these things!)... those in poverty around the world talk in terms of shame, inferiority, powerlessness, humiliation, fear, hopelessness, depression, social isolation, and voicelessness. Is this a new perspective for you? How does it change how you might relate to someone in poverty here or abroad?

11. Mike McKinley at Crossway writes, “when you understand that, [an impoverished person’s feelings of shame, inferiority, powerlessness etc... listed in question 8], then you see how the church is actually the answer to that sort of real, deep poverty because it is the gospel that reconciles us to God and takes away our shame, bringing us out of isolation and into community.”

What verses come to mind that can give hope to those living in poverty that in Christ they do not need to continue to live in:

shame:	inferiority:	powerlessness:
humiliation:	fear:	hopelessness:
depression:	social isolation:	voicelessness:

12. Giving someone food, money, or shelter helps solve a person’s immediate need and is fulfilling the call of God to love and care for the poor (see James 2:15-17). However, this gift does not last. Read Acts 3:1-10. Here Peter gives what a man needs, not what he wants. This man wanted money, but what he needed physically was healing. What he needed spiritually was faith in Christ. How can you give to the poor and needy in such a way that the Gospel is given alongside your gift/service?

Local and Global Opportunities to Open your Heart and Hands:

- Ask the Lord in **prayer!** Reach out to Pastor Dave and Pastor Aaron to see how you can serve and support our 2030 **Mound Evangelical Free Church Vision** of being “A Compelling Community that Cares and Counsels”
- In accordance with **Titus 2**, look for opportunities to share skills and opportunities “to stretch out your hands” with **younger women** around you.
- **Make a meal** for a widow/single/mother/family in need at church
- **Teach** a Bible study, skill, subject - share knowledge with others God has given you
- Share your **time** and listen to others, care and serve them in their needs Befriend a **family touched by disability** in the community. Listen and learn their needs. Offer support.
- Connect with **Joni and Friends Ministries** to learn more about loving the disabled around the world (and locally at family camps etc!) in Jesus’ name. - ask Kevin Johansen
- Become an **advocate for adoption** - ask Jessica Cunningham
- Be an **advocate for those who are unable to defend themselves**, the unborn, the orphan, those with certain disabilities, or the poorest of the poor living under both societal and spiritual oppression. **Get educated on MN State law and speak out for injustice.**
- Instead of coffee out, or ice cream or..... save the money and **give it to the poorest of the poor** through a ministry such as World Vision or Compassion International.
- Donate to our church’s quarterly “**Swap and Shop**” quality items to bless others
- Donate what is needed to **WeCAN food shelf** -ask Ruthann Schull for a list ;)
- **Wednesday Night Meal** - come share about Jesus and build relationships with others from our community - ask Ruthann Schull or Liz Truniger
- **Dorcas group Sunday nights** - use or develop a skill for making things for crisis pregnancy families - ask Jolene Lund
- Give to Samaritan’s Purse, World Vision or World Relief, Christian relief organizations that **give to the poorest of the poor and those in distress in Jesus’ name.**
- **Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen** - volunteer for 1.5 hours to pack food for those in extreme poverty. Bring others/your kids age 5+! - ask Jenny Geise
- **Compassion Int’l - sponsor a child.** Or can’t give \$? They need volunteers to pray for and write to children too :) - ask Cara Kahler
- **Arrive Ministries-** support local **refugee families** in Jesus’ name - ask Jenny Geise
- Consider giving part of your gift budget to the **Poor** - Christmas and Birthday Presents
- **March for Life** in January at the MN capital with your family! MCCL.org for details.
- Support the unborn and their families at **New Life Family Services** - ask Elisa Engesser