



Approaching God

Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passages.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Slowly Read the Following Passages

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Deuteronomy 15:11

11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

Proverbs 22:8-9

8 Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. **9** The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17 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. **18** Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **19** In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 John 3:16-20

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17** If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18** Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. **19** This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: **20** If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Thoughts to Ponder - Making Room for The Poor

Read the short essay from Russ Ramsey - <https://hereadstruth.com/2019/05/08/making-room-for-the-poor/>

“Jesus said that the poor will always be among us (Mark 14:7). This means our call to make room for the poor will never expire. But as soon as we say we need to make room for the poor in our lives, we’re tempted to start drawing lines that aim to define what qualifies someone as “poor.” Do we mean a homeless person? A refugee? Someone who earns less than we do?

Wealth is a relative concept. Compared to some, I don’t have very much. Compared to others (to most of the people in this world, actually), I am a man of tremendous riches. I can turn on a faucet and drink the water that comes out. I can drive a mile or so from the home I was approved to purchase, in a car that I own, to a grocery store where I can fill my cart with all sorts of foods that have been prepared for me. Anyone who can do these things is, by the world’s standards, wealthy.

Still, sometimes I drive past houses and cars that are nicer than mine, and I wonder what it would be like to be that rich. Wealth and poverty can make people feel worlds apart from one another. But we’re really not. In God’s economy, the wealthy are much more like the poor than they are different. No one can take anything from this life into the next, and God does not show favoritism based on how much or how little a person owns. In this sense, we are all poor in spirit.

“The poor” are those who lack sufficient resources to live comfortably by the standards of their own environment. When Jesus said that we will always have the poor with us, He was referring to this world only. Paul says the same thing about material wealth. The material things we possess belong only to this life, so we dare not set our hopes on them (1 Timothy 6:17–19). Instead, we are called to make room for the poor in our lives because, materially speaking, nothing can be taken beyond the limits of this life. No one really owns anything.

So, Paul tells the wealthy not to hoard their resources, but rather to use them to do good. In fact, one of the ways we do can do good is by making room for the poor at our tables, in our budgets, and on our calendars. Scripture calls the wealthy to be generous and open-handed, ready to share. In other words, we are to use our resources as people who have the next life in view—the eternal life into which we will carry nothing except for the grace and name of Christ.

Daily Reflection Questions

1. Why do today’s Scripture passages say about making room for the poor?
2. How can we make room for those in spiritual or financial poverty? What comes to mind for you today?

Close in Prayer:

Read back through 1 John 3:16-20. Take some time to thank Jesus for the way he laying down eternal riches, and giving up his very life as an expression of love for us. Confess where you’ve tempted to hold onto material things and place your hope in them. Ask God to help you to use your resources to make room for others who are in need.