

*The Fifth Day (Thursday)*

# THE PERSECUTED, POOR & OPPRESSED

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Isaiah 61:1-3: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to **proclaim good news to the poor**. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim **freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners**, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion--to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

## THE PERSECUTED

### *Psalms List for those Being Persecuted*

Psalms 7	Psalms 23	Psalms 35	Psalms 70	Psalms 88	Psalms 109
Psalms 10	Psalms 27	Psalms 37	Psalms 71	Psalms 91	Psalms 142
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2 Timothy 3:12-13: In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Revelation 13:1-10: The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority

to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. **It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them.** And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. **Whoever has ears, let them hear. "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed."** This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

Romans 8:35-39: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall **trouble or hardship or persecution** or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as **sheep to be slaughtered.**" **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:3-5: Not only so, but we also **glory in our sufferings**, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-8: We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, **so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them.** In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that **we would be persecuted.** And it turned out that way, as you well know. For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain. But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, **in all our distress and persecution** we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-12: Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your **perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.** All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the **kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.** God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the

Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:33-39: Sometimes you were **publicly exposed to insult and persecution**; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. **You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property**, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

1 Peter 2:13-23: Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.** But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? **But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example**, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Matthew 13:21: But since they have no root, they last only a short time. **When trouble or persecution comes because of the word**, they quickly fall away.

Matthew 5:10-12: **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they **persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Luke 6:22-23, 26: **Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.** "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated

the prophets. ... **Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you**, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

2 Corinthians 6:3-10: We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; **in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger**; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and **dishonor, bad report and good report**; genuine, yet **regarded as impostors**; known, yet **regarded as unknown; dying**, and yet we live on; **beaten**, and yet not killed; **sorrowful**, yet always rejoicing; **poor**, yet making many rich; **having nothing**, and yet possessing everything.

Matthew 10:23: When you are **persecuted** in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Luke 21:12: "But before all this, **they will seize you and persecute you**. They will hand you over to synagogues and **put you in prison**, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.

John 15:20: Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also**. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Acts 7:52: Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not **persecute**? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him--

Acts 13:50: But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They **stirred up persecution** against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

Acts 14:22: strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. **"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,"** they said.

2 Corinthians 12:10: That is why, for Christ's sake, **I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties**. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Timothy 3:10-11: You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, **endurance, persecutions, sufferings**--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, **the persecutions I endured**. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

Romans 12:12-14: Be joyful in hope, **patient in affliction**, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

Matthew 5:44: But I tell you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,**

1 Corinthians 4:12: We work hard with our own hands. **When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;**

2 Corinthians 4:7-12: But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. **We are hard pressed on every side**, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not in despair; **persecuted**, but not abandoned; **struck down**, but not destroyed. We always carry around **in our body the death of Jesus**, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are **always being given over to death for Jesus' sake**, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, **death is at work in us**, but life is at work in you.

Galatians 4:29: At that time the son born according to the flesh **persecuted** the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Galatians 5:11: Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being **persecuted**? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.

Galatians 6:12: Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is **to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.**

2 Corinthians 1:8-11: We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were **under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.** But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

## THE IMPRISONED

Psalms 79:11: May the **groans of the prisoners** come before you; with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.

Psalms 102:19-20: "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the **groans of the prisoners** and release those condemned to death."

Revelation 2:10-11: Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, **the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution** for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Hebrews 13:3: Continue to **remember those in prison** as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Hebrews 11:36-38: Some faced jeers and flogging, and even **chains and imprisonment**. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

Hebrews 10:32-36: Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. **You suffered along with those in prison** and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Psalms 107:10-16: Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, **prisoners suffering in iron chains**, because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the plans of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

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## BIBLICAL MEN WHO DID TIME IN PRISON

- |            |                    |                    |         |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| ▪ Joseph   | ▪ Micaiah          | ▪ John the Baptist | ▪ Paul  |
| ▪ Samson   | ▪ Daniel           | ▪ Peter            | ▪ Silas |
| ▪ Jeremiah | ▪ Daniel's friends | ▪ John             | ▪ Jesus |

## THE POOR & NEEDY, WIDOWS & FATHERLESS/ORPHANS

Luke 6:20-21, 24-25: Looking at his disciples, he said: "**Blessed are you who are poor**, for yours is the kingdom of God. **Blessed are you who hunger now**, for you will be satisfied. **Blessed are you who weep now**, for you will laugh. ... **But woe to you who are rich**, for you have already received your comfort. **Woe to you who are well fed now**, for you will go hungry. **Woe to you who laugh now**, for you will mourn and weep.

Luke 14:12-14: Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, **do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors**; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, **invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed**. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

James 1:27: Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: **to look after orphans and widows in their distress** and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Proverbs 19:17: Whoever is **kind to the poor** lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

James 2:1-7, 14-18: My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: **Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom** he promised those who love him? **But you have dishonored the poor**. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? ... What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

Isaiah 58:6-12: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to **loose the chains of injustice** and **untie the cords of the yoke**, to **set the oppressed free and break every yoke**? Is it not to **share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood**? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

and **if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed**, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Exodus 22:22-24: "**Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless.** If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.

Exodus 22:25-27: "**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. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, return it by sunset, because that cloak is the only covering your neighbor has. What else can they sleep in? When they cry out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10-11: **If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites** in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need. ... Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. 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.**

Deuteronomy 24:10-15: When you make a loan of any kind to your neighbor, do not go into their house to get what is offered to you as a pledge. Stay outside and let the neighbor to whom you are making the loan bring the pledge out to you. **If the neighbor is poor**, do not go to sleep with their pledge in your possession. Return their cloak by sunset so that your neighbor may sleep in it. Then they will thank you, and it will be regarded as a righteous act in the sight of the LORD your God. **Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns.** Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

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

Psalms 10:13-18: Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"? **But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief** and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; **you are the helper of the fatherless.** Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out. The LORD is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. **You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted**; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, **defending the fatherless and the oppressed**, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.



Psalms 12:5: "**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."

Psalms 14:6: You evildoers frustrate the **plans of the poor**, but the LORD is their refuge.

Psalms 35:10: My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, LORD? **You rescue the poor** from those too strong for them, **the poor and needy** from those who rob them."

Psalms 37:14: The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down **the poor and needy**, to slay those whose ways are upright.

Psalms 40:17: But as for me, **I am poor and needy**; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.

Psalms 82:1-4: God presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the "gods": "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? **Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy**; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 22:22-23: **Do not exploit the poor because they are poor** and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.

Proverbs 31:9: Speak up and judge fairly; defend **the rights of the poor and needy**.

Isaiah 1:17: Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. **Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.**

Isaiah 41:17-20: "**The poor and needy** search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Jeremiah 7:5-7: If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, **if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow** and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.

Jeremiah 22:3, 13-17: This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. **Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow**, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. ...13-17 "Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his own people work for nothing, not paying them for their labor. He says, 'I will

build myself a great palace with spacious upper rooms.' So he makes large windows in it, panels it with cedar and decorates it in red. "Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father [Josiah] have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. **He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?**" declares the LORD. "But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion."

Ezekiel 16:49-50: " '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**. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

Zechariah 7:9-10: "This is what the LORD Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. **Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor**. Do not plot evil against each other.'

Mark 12:38-40: As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. **They devour widows' houses** and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

#### *Job's Self Defense:*

Job 31:16-28: "If I have denied the desires of **the poor** or let the eyes of **the widow** grow weary, if I have **kept my bread to myself, not sharing it with the fatherless**-- but from my youth I reared them as a father would, and from my birth I guided the widow-- if I have seen **anyone perishing for lack of clothing, or the needy without garments**, and their hearts did not bless me for warming them with the fleece from my sheep, if I have raised my hand against **the fatherless**, knowing that I had influence in court, then let my arm fall from the shoulder, let it be broken off at the joint. **For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things**. If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,' if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained, if I have regarded the sun in its radiance or the moon moving in splendor, so that my heart was secretly enticed and my hand offered them a kiss of homage, then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.

#### *Parable of the Rich Fool:*

Luke 12:13-21: Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat,

drink and be merry." "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' **"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."**

*Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus:*

Luke 16:19-31: "There was a rich man who was **dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury** every day. At his gate was laid **a beggar named Lazarus**, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when **the beggar** died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The **rich man also died** and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' " 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

*Parable of the Sheep and the Goats:*

Matthew 25:31-46: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.**' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, **'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.**' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, **'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'** "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

1 Corinthians 7:8-9: Now to the unmarried and the **widows** I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Timothy 5:3-16: Give proper recognition to those **widows** who are really in need. But if a **widow** has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **No widow** may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. As for **younger widows**, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. So I counsel **younger widows** to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan. If any woman who is a believer has **widows in her care**, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those **widows who are really in need**.

Leviticus 19:10: 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**. I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 24:17-22: **Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge**. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. **Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow**, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. **Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow**. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. **Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow**. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

## THE SICK (OPPRESSED BY THE DEVIL)

Isaiah 53:3-5: He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him

punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and **by his wounds we are healed**.

1 Peter 2:24: He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "**by his wounds you have been healed**."

Psalms 6:2: Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD, for **my bones are in agony**.

Psalms 41:1-3: **Blessed are those who have regard for the weak [poor]**; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble. The LORD protects and preserves them--they are counted among the blessed in the land--he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. **The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness**.

Psalms 35:13-14: **Yet when they were ill**, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered, I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother.

Ezekiel 34:2-4, 15-16: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. **You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured**. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. ... I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. **I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy**. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Psalms 30:2: LORD my God, I called to you for help, and **you healed me**.

Psalms 41:4: I said, "Have mercy on me, LORD; **heal me**, for I have sinned against you."

Psalms 103:1-5: Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- who forgives all your sins and **heals all your diseases**, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 107:20: He sent out his word and **healed them**; he rescued them from the grave.

Psalms 147:3: He **heals** the brokenhearted and **binds up their wounds**.

Matthew 8:16: When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and **healed all the sick**.

Matthew 9:12: On hearing this, Jesus said, "**It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.**"

Matthew 14:14, 35: When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and **healed their sick**. ... And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. **People brought all their sick to him**

Mark 1:32-34: That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus **all the sick and demon-possessed**. The whole town gathered at the door, and **Jesus healed many who had various diseases**. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Mark 6:13: They **drove out many demons** and **anointed many sick people with oil and healed them**.

Mark 16:17-18: And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will **drive out demons**; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; **they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.**"

Matthew 4:24: News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with **various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them**.

Matthew 9:35: Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and **healing every disease and sickness**.

Matthew 10:1: Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them **authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness**.

Luke 9:1: When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he **gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases**,

Acts 5:15-16: As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, **bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed**.

Acts 10:38: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around **doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil**, because God was with him.

Acts 19:11-12: God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were **taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them**.

1 Corinthians 11:28-30: Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep [died].**