



The Least Of These

MAIN THING

If We Aren't Careful, We Will Create More Poverty Trying To Solve It

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:22, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12, Psalm 82:3, Proverbs 14:31, Ezekiel 16:49, Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 13:18, James 1 :27, 2 Thessalonians 3:10, Leviticus 19:10

ICEBREAKER

Can you think of a time when you tried to help someone, or intended to do something good, and it totally backfired? Made the situation worse? Your intentions were very good, but it bombed?

OPENING THOUGHT

All over Scripture is the challenge by God to care for the poor. The Church, throughout history, has done an amazing job of serving and caring for the poor; far better than any other organization in history. However, good intentions can backfire horribly, and many times our attempts to help can actually make things worse. We can actually create more poverty while trying to solve it; in fact, many of us are currently doing just that.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. What is the poverty mindset and how do we guard against it?
3. We don't live in an agrarian society like in Bible times. Get creative- how do we live out Leviticus 19:10 in American society today? What do we "leave" for the poor and the foreigner? How does an American Christian live out God's plan to provide for the poor in 2021?

LIFE APPLICATION

Care for the poor should be a primary concern for every church and every Christian. Every Christian should have resources available to help those in need. Is there anything you need to change about your concern for the poor, either adding or subtracting? Have you been enabling anyone? Have you been neglecting anyone? What changes in regard to the poor do you need to make today?

CHALLENGE

There are several ways this week you can immediately begin caring for the least of these.

- 1) sponsor a child in our orphanage in India
- 2) buy gift cards and/or hygiene products for our new 1:27 ministry
- 3) help stop the cycle of poverty by joining our new Fathers in the Field ministry
- 4) Support foster and adoptive families in tangible ways