

**PROVERBS 12:11:** “He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.”

## 4. Poverty Can Come Through

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**PROVERBS 14:31:** “He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”

**PROVERBS 28:3:** “A ruler who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no crops.”

**PROVERBS 18:23:** “A poor man pleads for mercy, but a rich man answers harshly.”

**PROVERBS 22:22-23:** “Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,<sup>23</sup> for the Lord will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.”

**PROVERBS 30:11-14:** “There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers; <sup>12</sup>those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth; <sup>13</sup>those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful; <sup>14</sup>those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.”

## 5. Poverty Can Come Through Our

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**PROVERBS 28:27:** “He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.”

**LUKE 16:19-31:** “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.<sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores<sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.<sup>22</sup> “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.<sup>23</sup> In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.<sup>24</sup> 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.’<sup>25</sup> “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.’<sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’<sup>27</sup> “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father’s house,<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’<sup>29</sup> “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’<sup>30</sup> “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’<sup>31</sup> “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.’”

## SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT POVERTY?

➤ **Be an \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in helping the Poor** (Prov. 14:31; 17:5; 22:22-23; 23:10-11).

**PROVERBS 22:22-23:** “Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,<sup>23</sup> for the Lord will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.”

**PROVERBS 23:10-11:** “Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,<sup>11</sup> for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.”

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **For the Poor** (Prov. 31:8-9).

**PROVERBS 31:8-9:** “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.<sup>9</sup> Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

**PROVERBS 29:7:** “The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **to the Poor** (Prov. 11:24-26; 2 Cor. 8-9; Romans 15:26; Gal. 2:10; Matthew 19:21).

**PROVERBS 11:24-26:** “One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.<sup>25</sup> A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”

<sup>26</sup>People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell."

**LUKE 19:8:** "But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ the Poor (Luke 14:12-14).

**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 relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Poor

**LUKE 4:16-19:** "He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

➤ Provide \_\_\_\_\_ help to the Poor (Matthew 25:31-46).

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**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."

**Give me a heart that breaks over the things that  
break the heart of God!**

## NAVIGATING LIFE: A Series in Proverbs Making A Difference in a World of Poverty Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 06.05.11

### INTRODUCTION:

#### 1. Poverty Can Come Through \_\_\_\_\_.

**PROVERBS 10:4-5:** "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. <sup>5</sup>He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."

**PROVERBS 12:27:** "The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions."

**PROVERBS 24:30-34:** "I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; <sup>31</sup>thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. <sup>32</sup> I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: <sup>33</sup>A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— <sup>34</sup>and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man."

**PROVERBS 6:6-8:** "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! <sup>7</sup>It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, <sup>8</sup>yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest."

#### 2. Poverty Can Come Through the Pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_.

**PROVERBS 21:17:** "He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich."

#### 3. Poverty Can Come Through \_\_\_\_\_.

**PROVERBS 28:19:** "He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty."