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## Helping Jesus Work With the Poor

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**G**od commands His people to preach “the Good News that lasts [continues] forever” (Revelation 14:6, NLV). God wants us to share this message with everyone on earth. When we share this message, we obey Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:20. Jesus wants us to make new followers. Jesus wants us to baptize them. Jesus wants us to “teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do” (Matthew 28:20, ERV). One of the many things Jesus told us to do was to take care of people. He wants us to take care of people who are hurting, poor, hungry, and in prison.

Jesus did this same work on this earth. He told His followers to do this work too: “Go and do the same” (Luke 10:37, NLV). During His time on the earth, Jesus told His followers it is very important to help the hungry, the sick, the naked, and prisoners. “Anything you did for one of the least [not very] important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

What is Jesus saying in this verse? He is saying that we must help meet the needs of other people. Ellen G. White writes, “Jesus’ plan will give us true success. His plan is the only one that will help us save people. Jesus is our Savior. He spent time with people. He wanted what was best for them. He showed them that He cared about them. He served them. He took care of their needs. He won their trust and their hearts. Then He told them, ‘Follow Me.’”—*The Ministry [work done for God] of Healing*, page 143, adapted.

Someone counted the number of verses that talk about God’s care for the poor and the suffering. The Bible has 2,103 verses on this subject! Wow! That is a lot of verses. That is because the Bible has a lot to say about what we must do to help people. We must help people who are in pain. There are suffering people all around us. They need our attention. While we help suffering people, we should continue to preach the

Good News about Jesus. Our helping people should be a part of the work to share the Good News.

Of course, we know that it is a good thing to help other people. We should do what is right because it is right (read Micah 6:8). At the same time, we also need to share the Good News about Jesus with the people we are helping (read 1 Peter 3:15). And the Good News is that they can have everlasting life in Jesus.

Jesus healed people who were sick. He helped blind people to see again. He helped the deaf to hear. He healed people with awful skin diseases. Jesus even woke up people from the dead. But all these people who Jesus helped died later, right? So, that is why Jesus did more than take care of people's needs. He also told them, "Follow Me." We should do the same thing Jesus did. We should ask the people we help to follow Him.

We show people the kingdom of God when we help them (read Luke 4:18, 19). People can also see God's love when we fight for what is fair. Our kind acts are strong sermons. They show people that God's kingdom is real. Did you know that when we take care of the poor, we are worshiping God? Yes, and we give Jesus honor when we help people too (read Isaiah 58:6–10). When we fail to help people who need our help, we fail God. We do not show people who He truly is (read Proverbs 14:31).

***Our kind acts  
are strong  
sermons.***

This quarter, we will study what the Bible says about our duty to take care of suffering people around us. The Bible has a lot to say about this subject. Jesus said: " 'Heal the sick. Bring the dead back to life. Heal the people who have leprosy [bad skin diseases]. And force demons out of people. I give you these powers freely, so help others freely' " (Matthew 10:8, ERV). Jesus' words say it all. He gave us everything. So, we should live to bless other people.

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