

SHOWING KINDNESS TO THE POOR IS EQUAL TO HONOURING YOUR MAKER

PROVERBS 14: 31B

I was meditating on proverbs 14 this morning. There are many nuggets in there. But for this week's weekly encouragement, let's explore what God in His Wisdom has - how to treat the poor and the consequences we might have to suffer. We cannot worship the Lord in awe and treat the poor disrespectfully. (Vs 27)

Many of us treat the poor like scum. They are no bodies. A valuable lesson I learnt from my dad when I was small and growing up is that he treated everyone alike. When low caste people came to him to get a favour, he would kindly ask them to sit down. They would refuse while trembling, advising my father that our house would be burnt down if he would ask them to sit down as an equal.

God's LOVE is to All. To the poor and rich, to the wise and foolish, to the believer and unbeliever etc. Who are we to judge people? One must accept and tolerate the poor as survivors and will do anything to survive, say anything to get a double portion. Please treat them with compassion.

I never asked or prayed for the Refugee ministry. But God gave me thousands. One thing I learnt was to love them, be gracious to them and find a path to uplift them in life. With any relationship or ministry with the poor -I find many people wanting to do charity with rules and regulations with a spirit of religion. NO No No- they are to be treated with respect, graciousness, kindness, and love.

The fear of the Lord should teach us to always be kind to them. Even if the answer is to refuse them -do it with a heart of kindness and not fingers of accusation.

The scriptures in Proverbs relating to the poor in Proverbs 14 are:

Vs 20: The poor are disliked by their neighbors, but everyone wants to get close to the rich.

Vs 22: It is a sin to despise those who are less fortunate than you; but when you are kind to the poor, you will prosper and be blessed.

Vs 31: Insult your Creator, will you? That is exactly what you do, every time you oppress the powerless.

Showing kindness to the poor is equal to honoring the poor.

Isiah 58 clearly shows the kind of fast the Lord requires us. Certainly, all the meals you give up will not equal the oppression you give the poor. Be careful and offer your prayers dealing with people who are less fortunate than you, with love and respect.

God has brought me now to a wider space -a very blessed woman of God with multiple blessings – BUT I have been poor, with the whole world around crashing and despising me after being wealthy. I know the feeling and give the poor the respect that I cried at one time others would give me.

DO NOT DESPISE THE POOR-IT HURTS THE HEART OF GOD.

Love and Blessings

Ps Hilda