"Our Partnership in India"

Pastor Billy Graham Paulose

INTRODUCTION

This week Pastor Billy shared with our church about the progress being made in the Prince of Peace School in India. His work reaches hundreds of children living in poverty that had no hope before they were given the opportunity to go to school and to learn about Jesus. In this study we will consider our role, and our responsibility to those in need.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min): Have you traveled outside of the country? If so, where?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Q1. Read 1 John 4:20-21, 1 Corinthians 13:2-3

Before we consider what our actions towards the poor should be, we should first examine our motives. What command, not suggestion, does God give us in 1 John? According to 1 Corinthians what do you gain if your actions are without love? What does it mean to "love your brother?" Which do you find easier; to give to the poor or love the poor?

Q2. Read James 2:15-17

This passage challenges us to match our actions with our words. Can you think of an instance where you have seen someone in need but not felt pity? How do you think Jesus would have responded in that situation?

Q3. Read Luke 10:29 - 37, Matthew 25:34-46

According to United Nation's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) program 270 million or 21.9% people out of 1.2 billion of Indians lived below poverty line of \$1.25 in 2011-2012. After considering the parable in Luke 10, whom should we consider as our neighbor and what is your responsibility to your neighbor? When you reach out in support to the needy, how does God view your actions (Matthew 25:40)?

Q4. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

When you see the phrase "rich in this present world" whom do you envision? Do you think those in third world countries would view you as rich? How do you decide whether or not this command applies to you?

Q5. Read James 2:5, Proverbs 14:31, Proverbs 19:17 What do these verses reveal about how God views the poor and his relationship to them?

WRAP-UP

In this study we have seen that God has compassion for the poor and wants his people to demonstrate their love for those less fortunate through actions as well as words. Not only does God desire to have us caring for the poor, he promises many rewards to those who do so. Most in America can count themselves among "those who are rich in this present world." We have the privilege and responsibility, to use what God has given us, to bless others.

Memory Verse

He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 19:17 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Challenge: Ask God to show you an organization or individual you can support which ministers to the poor of this world.

Q1.

1 John 4:20-21 NIV - 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 Corinthians 13:2-3 NIV - 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Q2. James 2:15-17 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

Q3.

Luke 10:29-37 NIV - 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Read Matthew 25:34-46 in your Bible

Q4.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV - 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly

provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

O5.

James 2:5 NIV - 5 Listen, my dear brothers: 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?

Proverbs 14:31 NIV - 31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Proverbs 19:17 NIV - 17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.