

Looking After The Poor And The Weak

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[0 : 00] The 25th of October, looking after the poor and the weak. Blessed is the one who considers the poor, or weak.

Psalm 41.1 How a community looks after its poor is, for the Bible, the acid test of its life. C.N. Sugden Poverty, sadly, seems to be a permanent feature of our world. It should not be like that. In nearly every part of the world, even in the wealthiest parts, you will still find many poor people, weak people, orphans and the sick.

The Old Testament is full of directions as to how the poor and the weak were to be looked after, and the New Testament puts a lot of emphasis on this as well. The Bible sees no virtue in poverty as such, but it does tell us that God cares for the poor, and he calls blessed those who, in his name, care for them and help them in their need.

It is our Christian duty. But there are two kinds of poverty highlighted in the Bible. There is the economic poverty we have been noting, and there is also a spiritual poverty, when people think they can do without God, but then come to realize that without him, they are poor, wretched, and blind, even if they have plenty of money.

[1 : 26] Jesus has a great message of good news for such people, just as for the other kind of poor people. Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

A prayer.