



- We can't have a heart for the city if we are **disconnected** from the **people** of the city.

#### The challenge for many is:

- As the city grows, so does our **prejudice**.
- As the city increase, our **generosity** decreases.

#### Statistics on poverty:

- **156,015** People live in poverty.
- Approx. **40%** of the children in Fresno County live in poverty.
- 41 ... Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep. Luke 19:41 (NLT)
- Fresno ranks **No. 2** in the **nation** for cities with the highest rates of extreme **poverty**.
- Our overexposure to this need can affect our **compassion** for the **people** who are in need.

#### Proverbs on poverty:

- How we **treat** the poor is how **God** will treat us.
- 13 Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need. Proverbs 21:13 (NLT)
- 27 Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed. Proverbs 28:27 (NLT)
- How we treat the **poor** is how we treat **God**.
- 31 Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God. Proverbs 14:31 (TLB)
- 37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:37-40 (NLT)
- When you give to the poor, you get **paid back** with interest.
- 17 When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord—and he pays wonderful interest on your loan! Proverbs 19:17 (TLB)
- 17 ...if someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him—how can God's love be within him?
- 18 Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions. 1 John 3:17-18 (TLB)

33 A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. 34 He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. 35 In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' Luke 10:33-35 (MSG)

#### How to love someone in need:

- Be **aware** of the need.
- 33 A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, Luke 10:33 (MSG)
- 27 Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed. Proverbs 28:27 (NLT)
- Allow your **heart** to be moved.
- 33 A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. Luke 10:33 (MSG)
- 35 Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He ...healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives.
- 36 When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. Matthew 9:35-36 (MSG)
- We **serve** them, not **save** them.
  - Relief:** immediate, temporary help during and after a crisis.
- It's going to require an **investment**.
- 35 In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' Luke 10:33-35 (MSG)
- 1 Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Ecclesiastes 11:1 (ESV)
- 1 Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. Ecclesiastes 11:1 (MSG)
- 17 When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord—and he pays wonderful interest on your loan! Proverbs 19:17 (TLB)
- 16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God. Hebrews 13:16 (NLT)

## Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

#### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- Do you think that poverty is something the church should talk about? Why? How do you think the church should/could lead the way to dealing with poverty in our city?
- Do you really believe that we can make a difference with this issue in our city?
- Do any of the statistics mentioned surprise you? Explain. Do you think that being "overexposed" to poverty causes us to be desensitized to the need around us?
- Which of the "proverbs on poverty" stands out to you most? Explain.
- How can we be made more aware of the poverty in our city? Is poverty in "pockets" of our city or spread evenly throughout it?
- How can we serve people in need effectively? Do you have any ideas how we as a church can address this issue of poverty in our city?
- What are some ways we can invest in meeting, and addressing the needs of the poor?

For more Talks, visit us at

**fresnoquest.com**