

Poverty, Justice & Mercy

'Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to get to see a doctor. Poverty is not being able to go to school, not knowing how to read, not being able to speak properly. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation, and freedom.'

World Bank Development Report on poverty 2000, quoted by Clive Robinson in Towards a Christian Aid statement on poverty, 1999.

Some Old Testament References

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows. *(Isaiah 1:17-18 NLT)*

"This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The GOD of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, GOD will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, "Here I am."

"If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places - firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. *(Isaiah 58:6-11 MSG)*

the whatever

Poverty, Justice & Mercy

"But a beautiful palace does not make a great king! Why did your father, Josiah, reign so long? Because he was just and right in all his dealings. That is why God blessed him. He made sure that justice and help were given to the poor and needy, and everything went well for him. Isn't that what it means to know me?" asks the LORD. *(Jeremiah 22:13-16 NLT)*

"I can't stand your religious meetings. I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me? Do you know what I want? I want justice--oceans of it. I want fairness--rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want. *(Amos 5:10-24 MSG)*

The LORD God has told us what is right and what he demands: "See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God." *(Micah 6:8 CEV)*

(Poverty quote taken from **Trade justice – Why should Christians care? A Prophets & Profits workshop from SCM** found at http://www.movement.org.uk/clientsuppliedfiles/tradejustice_workshop.pdf)

the whatever