

PROVERBS – Lesson 4
How to Treat Our Fellow Man
By Beverly McKey

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Solomon declared in **Proverbs 4** that attaining wisdom is the principle thing one should strive for.
1. **Vs. 7** – *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”*
 2. Solomon promised that blessings would follow one who possessed wisdom.
 - a. **Vs. 8** – *“Exalt her, and she will promote you; she will bring you honor, when you embrace her.”*
 - b. **Vs. 9** – *“She will place on your head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory she will deliver to you.”*
 - c. **Vs. 12** – *“When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.”*
- B. What Solomon really meant is that attaining wisdom is the “principle thing” for a servant of God to attain.
1. We know this because Solomon also taught that the “*fear of God*” was the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. **Proverbs 1:7**
 2. Wisdom is never gained all at once; it is a process that includes some important steps.
 - a. Proper knowledge of God:
 - 1) **Proverbs 1:7** – *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction”*
 - 2) **Proverbs 3:5-6** – *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*
 - 3) **Proverbs 9:10** – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*
 - b. Proper recognition and respect of parents:
 - 1) **Proverbs 1:8-9** – *“My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.”*
 - 2) **Proverbs 20:20** – *“Whoever curses his father or his mother his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.”*
 - c. A proper outlook toward evil:
 - 1) **Proverbs 4:14** – *“Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil.”*
 - 2) **Proverbs 8:13** – *“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”*

- d. A proper outlook toward the things of the world:
- 1) **Proverbs 11:4** – *“Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.”*
 - 2) **Proverbs 11:28** – *“He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.”*
 - 3) **Proverbs 22:1** – *“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.”*
 - 4) **Proverbs 30:8-9** – *“Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches – feed me with the food allotted to me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, ‘Who is the Lord’ or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.”*
- e. If one achieves these attitudes, then it will be possible to achieve wisdom because the stumbling blocks to wisdom will already have been removed.
- C. It is important to understand that a proper outlook toward God and toward parents is absolutely necessary in order for one to learn to submit to “authority”.
1. Belief that God created everything that exists and that the Bible is His inspired word is necessary for one to accept the authority of God.
 - a. **Hebrews 11:6** – *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*
 - b. The Bible is often trivialized by suggesting that it is an old book that is not relevant in our time.
 - c. If the relevance of the Bible is challenged, then proper respect for God is impossible.
 - d. If the Bible is not true, from beginning to end, then why believe any of it.
 - e. Doubting the accuracy or relevance of the Bible gives birth to man-made religion where one can pluck out the favorable teachings in the Bible, and ignore the ones that are disagreeable.
 2. Proper respect for parents and their authority is the school room where we first learn about authority.
 - a. Lack of respect for parents prevents one from developing a healthy respect for authority of any kind.
 - b. Good parents will require their children to be obedient and respectful.
 - c. Christian parents then teach their children to love God and respect His authority as well.
 - d. Parents must also teach personal responsibility and respect for other authority such as, police, teachers, employers and governmental statutes. Failure to do so will produce children who are at odds with all authority in their lives.
 - e. Life is very difficult for those who reject authority and insist upon rebelling against it.

II. HOW TO DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHERS

- A. Those who accept the authority of God and follow His teachings will also be more successful in developing relationships of all kinds.
1. Many of the proverbs express both good and bad attitudes toward our fellow man.
 2. Proper attitudes toward others will have positive results.
 3. Improper attitudes will have negative results, making things difficult for the individual as well as others.
- B. The prerequisite for developing good personal relationships is provided by Solomon when he encouraged his son to “*receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity.*” **Proverbs 1:3**
1. **Wisdom** is the power of right judgment.
 - a. It is the ability to analyze a situation and correctly determine the right attitude or action in response.
 - b. The wisdom we seek is not based on intelligence or level of secular education, since wisdom is not due to one’s ability to learn or memorize information the world deems important.
 - c. Wisdom is a gift from God for those who pursue the knowledge of God.
 - 1) **Proverbs 2:6** – “*For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;*”
 - 2) This is also confirmed in the New Testament. **James 1:5** “*If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*”
 2. **Justice** is the ability to make decisions or choose solutions that are just and righteous.
 - a. Justice always condemns the wicked and justifies the righteous.
 - b. It does not confuse the two or compromise in either direction.
 - c. It knows what is right and demands it with faithful integrity.
 - d. The book of Proverbs teaches justice by defining what is right and wrong.
 - 1) **Proverbs 17:23** – “*A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.*”
 - 2) **Proverbs 21:7** – “*The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice.*”
 - 3) **Proverbs 21:15** – “*It is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.*”
 - 4) **Proverbs 28:5** – “*Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand all.*”
 - 5) **Proverbs 29:26** – “*Many seek the ruler’s favor, but justice for man comes from the Lord.*”
 - 6) The Law of Moses also commanded justice. **Leviticus 19:15** – “*You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall **not** be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.*”

3. **Judgment** means the ability to select the better of two or more options; to discern between good and evil, truth and falsehood, right and wrong, etc.
- a. **Proverbs 31:9** – *“Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.”*
 - b. **Proverbs 24:23** – *“These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment.”*
 - c. **Proverbs 15:21** – *“Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment (judgment), but a man of understanding walks uprightly.”*
 - d. **Malachi 3:18** – *“Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.”*
 - e. **Ezekiel 44:23** – *“And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.”*
 - f. **Hebrews 5:12-14** teaches us how to achieve the ability to discern good and evil.
 - 1) **Vs. 12-13** – Those who are *“unskilled in the word of righteousness”* are compared to “babes” (immature), who still need the milk of the word (elementary teachings) when they should be mature and able to teach.
 - 2) **Vs. 14** – Those who have exercised their senses (through constant use of the word of God) are able to “discern both good and evil”.
 - 3) Serious Bible study, then, is the only way we can learn to discern between good and evil.
4. **Equity** is the quality of being fair or impartial.
- a. A virtuous person is always fair. She exercises righteous judgment and avoids corrupting justice or truth.
 - b. The Bible warns repeatedly against respect of persons (favoritism) – we must never corrupt judgment for family, friends, the rich, the poor, or those who can benefit us.
 - c. True equity and righteous judgment never consider the persons involved, but look only to the facts and justice of the case.
 - d. God condemns the hypocrisy of favoritism and compromise in many places;
 - 1) **Proverbs 18:5** – *“It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.”*
 - 2) This teaching was part of the Law of Moses, which Solomon would have known as well.
Deuteronomy 16:19 – *“You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.”*

- 3) The New Testament repeats this teaching in **James 2:1** – “*My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.*”
- 4) The nine verses following **James 2:1** describe an example of showing partiality for the rich over the poor in a worship service.
5. When we have received and accepted instruction from wisdom, justice, judgment and equity, we are then equipped to develop good, honest, sincere personal relationships by applying these principles to all people equally.

III. OUR MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS ARE THOSE IN OUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY:

- A. The structure of the family was created by God on the first day of creation for the good of mankind.
 1. When God created woman from the rib of Adam, He presented her to Adam and gave them this instruction: **Genesis 2:24** – “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*”
 - a. Imagine the chaos that would occur if there was no structure to our society.
 - b. The structure that God created was the “family”.
 - c. The relationship between husband and wife is the primary relationship in the family.
 - 1) Marriage is not an invention of man, it was instituted by God for the benefit of mankind.
 - a) The marriage bond is intended to join one man and one woman into “one flesh”, which no other relationship can accomplish.
 - b) Marriage is intended to be a bond that lasts a lifetime.
 - i It supersedes the bond with parents since we eventually leave our parents and become independent.
 - ii It even supersedes the bond with children, since eventually they leave us and become independent.
 - iii The marriage bond remains the same no matter how many other things change, at least that is how God intended it to work.
 - iv Unfortunately, many people do not value the bond of marriage as God intended it which has resulted in a high rate of failure in today’s society.
 - v In fact, the definition of marriage is under attack in this country and around the world.
 - vi The more society changes the standards of marriage and of morality, the more we see marriages failing.

- vii Many children will never experience the nurturing effect of having their parents united in the family, which leaves them with little respect for the institution of marriage.
- 2) Solomon expressed great respect for a good wife in the proverbs, even though he lacked respect for his own wives and concubines by collecting them like a herd of cattle.
- a) **Proverbs 12:4** – *“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.”*
 - b) **Proverbs 18:22** – *“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.”*
 - c) **Proverbs 19:14** – *“Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”*
 - d) **Proverbs 31:10** – *“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”*
- 3) Wives who have the proper respect for the authority of God will accept her role in the family as God intended.
- a) **Ephesians 5:22-23** – *“²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”*
 - b) **Titus 2:4** – *“...admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”*
- 4) Husbands who have the proper respect for the authority of God will accept his role as God intended.
- a) Solomon gave advice about some important things to help husbands improve and secure their marriage relationship:
 - i He warned against jealousy – **Proverbs 27:4** – *“Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?”*
 - ii He insisted upon faithfulness – **Proverbs 5:15-18** – While this is worded in poetic language, Solomon is referring to husbands remaining faithful to their wives only.

“¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. ¹⁶ Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷ Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. ¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth.”

- iii He encouraged financial security – **Proverbs 20:13** – *"Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread."*
 - iv He promised blessings from God – **Proverbs 3:33** – *"The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just."*
- b) The New Testament requires husbands to love their wives more than their own lives.
- i **Ephesians 5:25** – ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."*
 - ii **Ephesians 5:28-29** – *"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."*
 - iii When two people forget (or never understood) that they are ONE FLESH in the eyes of God, they fail to understand that what hurts one also hurts the other. What sane person would purposely hurt themselves?
2. We have discussed that it is in our relationship with our parents that we learn to submit to authority.
- a. We also develop a deep love for our parents, which can only be proven by the way we treat them.
 - 1) The Law of Moses commanded that one who struck or cursed his mother or father would surely be put to death. **Exodus 21:15 & 17**
 - 2) Solomon points out how one should NOT treat his parents:
 - a) **Proverbs 19:26** – *"He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach."*
 - b) **Proverbs 28:24** – *"Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, 'It is no transgression', the same is companion to a destroyer."*
 - c) **Proverbs 30:17** – *"There is a generation that curses its father and does not bless its mother."*
 - 3) However, Solomon knew that those who love and honor their parents are a blessing to them:
 - a) **Proverbs 23:24** – *"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him."*
 - b) **Proverbs 23:25** – *"Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice."*
 - 4) The New Testament continues this teaching as well.
 - a) **Ephesians 6:1** – *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first*

commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

- b) **Colossians 3:20** – "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."
- 5) "Disobedience to parents" is listed among the most evil and immoral sins.
- a) **Romans 1:29-31** – "...all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents**, undiscerning untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful..."
- b) **2 Timothy 3:2** – "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"
- 6) Children are obligated to care for their aging, handicapped or needy parents.
- I Timothy 5:4** – "But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God."

IV. RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE THE FAMILY ARE ALSO IMPORTANT.

- A. When we follow Solomon's advice to practice wisdom, justice, judgment and equity, developing good relationships our neighbors will be easy.
1. Some neighbors are truly "next door" to us.
 - a. **Proverbs 3:29** – "*Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety's sake.*"
 - 1) Solomon is saying one should not do evil against his neighbor for your own sake.
 - 2) Since he lives beside you, he could harm your family at any time he might choose to take revenge upon you.
 - b. **Proverbs 25:17** – "*Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.*"
 - 1) There is an old saying that one should not "wear out his welcome" in someone else's home.
 - 2) Solomon is not saying that we should not visit our neighbor; he is, however, saying that one should not make a nuisance of himself there.
 2. Other proverbs are referring to a "neighbor" as mankind in general.

- a. **Proverbs 25:18** – *“A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.”*
 - 1) False testimony is as surely a weapon as is a club or sword.
 - 2) The damage done by false accusations can be irreparable.
 - b. **Proverbs 26:18-19** – *“Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,¹⁹ is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, ‘I was only joking!’”*
 - 1) This proverb is very interesting because the Hebrew for *“Like a madman”* is translation more accurately “one who pretends to be mad (insane)”.
 - 2) This describes a situation where a man deceives his neighbor in a way that cheats or harms his neighbor. When he is found out, he says *“I was only joking.”*
 - 3) Solomon says this man is as dangerous as one who would throw deadly objects at his neighbor on purpose, then pretend to be insane when his weapon harms or kills his neighbor.
 - c. **Proverbs 3:27** – *“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor ‘Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it.’”*
 - 1) To withhold good, when we have the ability to provide it, is a sign of selfishness.
 - 2) To postpone helping a neighbor with an immediate need is a sign of laziness or apathy toward their problem.
3. The New Testament also reinforces these thoughts numerous times.
 - a. Jesus clearly taught the meaning of “neighbor” in the parable of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. **Luke 10:30-37**
 - 1) After telling the story of a man who was beaten and left to die in the road and explaining that neither of the two “holy” men of Israel who passed by were willing to help but a Samaritan (an enemy of the Jews) accepted responsibility for helping the man, Jesus asked, *“Which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”*
 - 2) The correct answer, of course, was *“He who showed mercy on him.” Vs. 37*
 - 3) With that, Jesus then said, *“Go and do likewise.”*
 - 4) **Matthew 22:37-40** – ³⁷*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*
 - b. **James 2:8** – ⁸*“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; ⁹but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”*

- B. God's people also have an obligation to the poor.
1. How we treat the poor is driven by our sense of "equity". We should truly want all people to share in the bounty of life.
 - a. **Proverbs 19:17** – *"He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given."*
 - b. **Proverbs 22:9** – *"He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor."*
 - c. **Proverbs 22:2** – *"The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all."*
 - d. **Proverbs 28:27** – *"He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses."*
 2. Solomon also illustrated the proper value of work to provide for your own needs and the needs of others.
 - a. **Proverbs 6:6-8** – *"Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷ which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, ⁸ provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest."*
 - 1) One who is too lazy to work to provide for his family is not to be tolerated or encouraged.
 - 2) Solomon's example teaches that even God's smallest creatures have been given the instinct of survival and work constantly for the benefit of their whole community.
 - 3) Mankind has been given so many talents and abilities that there is no excuse for healthy, able bodied people who are simply too lazy and selfish to work.
 - 4) However, even the most ambitious and industrious of mankind can face circumstances beyond their control that place them in severe need for daily necessities.
 - b. **Proverbs 3:27-28** – *"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you (already) have it with you."*
 - c. The New Testament confirms that work is not only to provide for ourselves, but also for those in need.

Ephesians 4:28 – *"Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."*
 3. The servant of God is called upon to discern between a person who is truly in need and one whose lifestyle confirms that he is unwilling to get a job and do his best to keep that job.
 - a. Even Paul addressed those who chose not to work: *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."* **2 Thessalonians 3:10**

- b. **Mark 14:7** – *“For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good...”*

III. CONCLUSION

- A. When we stand before the Lord on that great and final day, we will be judged predominately (although not exclusively) on how we have or have not treated our fellow man.
1. Jesus gives a prophecy regarding the destruction of Jerusalem and the end times. **Matthew 24:1-35**
 - a. Historical records confirm that the destruction of Jerusalem occurred in AD70.
 - 1) This was God’s final sign that the Law of Moses was no longer in effect. No longer would Jerusalem be considered the sacred place for worship.
 - 2) Jesus referred to this event as “the abomination of desolation”. **Vs. 15**
 - 3) In fact, the Law of Moses became obsolete the moment Jesus fulfilled the law, then sacrificed Himself on the cross by which He purchased a new and better covenant.
 - 4) **Hebrews 9:16-17** – *“¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.”* So the new law of Christ became effective with His death.
 2. He spoke regarding His second coming. **Matthew 24:36** – *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*
 3. In the chapter immediately following, He spoke of:
 - a. being prepared for Jesus to come again on the day of judgment (in the parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens) **Matthew 25:1-13**
 - b. the responsibility of stewardship in the parable of the talents **Matthew 25:14-30**
 - c. the day of judgment which includes separating mankind as a shepherd separates the sheep and the goats **Matt. 25:31-46**
 - d. and the judgment of mankind emphasizing the way we have conducted ourselves in regard to our fellow man. **Matthew 25:31-46**
- B. Jesus describes the actions of those on the right (the sheep) and those on the left (the goats).
1. **Matthew 25:34-36** – *“³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I*

- was in prison and you came to Me."*
- a. The righteous (on the right) asked "*When did we do those things for you?*" **Vs 37-39**
 - b. Then the King (Jesus) will say to them: "*inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*" **Vs. 40**
2. This scene is then repeated for those on the left, except they were accused of failing to attend to the needs of the King (Jesus). **Vs. 41-43**
- a. Those on the left were confused as well, saying, "*Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?*"
 - b. The answer was "*inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.*"
- C. On another occasion, Jesus was asked by a lawyer, "*Which is the greatest commandment in the law?*" **Matthew 22:36**
1. This lawyer had asked Jesus to take the Law of Moses and sum them up in one command.
 - a. Jesus, without blinking an eye, quoted a scripture from Deuteronomy 6 – "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" **Matthew 22:37**
 - b. However, He did not stop there but went on to quote a second passage from the book of Leviticus.
 - 1) Jesus said, "And the second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*" **Matthew 22:39-40**
 - 2) Jesus, with two passages, sums up the entire Law of Moses with its multitude of commandments.
 2. If we were given the opportunity to ask the same question to Jesus today under the New Testament dispensation, the same answer would be given.
 - a. The apostle Paul repeats this teaching of Jesus in a few verses.
 - b. **Romans 13:8-10** – "⁸ *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.* ⁹ *For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* ¹⁰ *Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*"
 4. The practical New Testament book of James records the conditional aspect of mercy also. **James 2:13** – "*For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*"
 5. God has always used His people to provide for the poor and needy.
 - a. Through regulations of harvest (Leviticus 23:22)
 - b. Tithing (Deuteronomy 26:12)

- c. Special considerations for orphans and widows (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).
 - d. God intended His love for His people to create benevolence in their hearts.
 - e. It is a misunderstanding of Judaism and Christianity and of God if one has the idea that benevolence is not a part of religion.
 - 1) Whenever the nation of Israel failed to remember the poor and needy, they were traveling the road to ruin.
 - 2) It was an indication a selfish, worldly character which lead them farther away from God until they ended up in captivity.
 - 3) Even the Pharisees during the days of Jesus were so selfish and displayed such a total disregard for the poor that they thought nothing of robbing widows.+ (Matt. 23:14).
 - f. The New Testament certainly emphasizes this same idea:
Galatians 6:7-10 – ⁷ *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* ⁸ *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.* ⁹ *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.* ¹⁰ *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*"
- D. I will end these thoughts with this poem that makes us examine ourselves:

NO TIME

I knelt to pray, but not for long; I had too much to do.
 I had to hurry and get to work for bills would soon be due.
 So, I knelt, said a hurried prayer and jumped up off my knees.
 My Christian duty was now done my soul could rest at ease.

All day long, I had no time to spread a word of cheer.
 No time to speak of Christ to friends; they would laugh at me, I fear.
 "No time, no time, too much to do." That was my constant cry.
 No time to give to souls in need, but at last the time to die.

Then I went before the Lord and stood with downcast eyes.
 For in His hands, God held a book; it was the book of life.
 God checked into His book and said, "*Your name I cannot find,
 I once was going to write it down, but never found the time.*"

UNKNOWN