

The Power of Vision IV

Open our eyes that we might see.

We must have a vision larger than ourselves.

We must see a **w**orld larger than ourselves. *Luke 4:18-19*

KJV Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he **hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor**; he hath sent me to heal the **brokenhearted**, to preach deliverance to the **captives**, and recovering of sight to the **blind**, to set at liberty them **that are bruised**,
¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Who are the poor?

Amos 2:6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, And for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; Because they sold the righteous for silver, And **the poor** for a pair of shoes; ⁷ That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of **the poor**, And turn aside the way of **the meek**: And a man and his father will go in unto the *same* maid, To profane my holy name:

The Old Testament analysis of poverty is stated clearly in

NIV Amos 2: 6-7 For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. They sell... the needy [**ebyon**] for a pair of sandals. They trample on the heads of the poor [**dallim**]... and deny justice to the oppressed [**anawim**].

I

In this passage, three different types of poverty are identified by the prophet.

The **ebyon** are people totally **d**ependent on **o**thers, those who are utterly destitute and must beg in order to survive.

- Lazarus the beggar. *Luke 16:19-21*

Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰ And there was a **certain beggar** named Lazarus, which was **laid at his gate, full of sores,** ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: **moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.**

Those who are *dallim* are the p^hysically weak and m^aterially poor—they simply have neither the capital nor the strength to make it financially in life.

- The man at the temple. *Acts 3:2*

Acts 3:2 And a certain **man lame from his mother's womb** was carried, **whom they laid** daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple

There are the *anawim*—those who know themselves to be of no account, the people broken under their weight of poverty so that they are entirely dependent on others for their survival.

- The poor woman at the treasury. *Mark 12:41-44*

Mark 12:41 ⁴¹ And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. ⁴² And there came a **certain poor widow**, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. ⁴³ And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That **this poor widow** hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into ¹the treasury: ⁴⁴ For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but **she of her want** did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.

- She gave out her poverty and want or need.

II

Today we would call the *ebyon* the exploited. *Ezekiel 22:29*

Ezekiel 22:29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

Today we would call the *dallim* the impoverished.

- The poor will not cease from the land, therefore open your hand wide to the poor. *Deuteronomy 15:11*

Deuteronomy 15:11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Today we would call the *anawim* the oppressed.

- The oppressed and the oppressor have no comfort. *Ecclesiastes 4:1*

Ecclesiastes 4:1 So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.

III

We are told not to afflict the widow or fatherless.

Exodus 22:22-24

Exodus 22:22 Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. ²³ If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴ And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

We are told to plead the cause of the poor and needy. **Proverbs 31:9**

Proverbs 31:9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

We are told **act** on behalf of the needy. **James 2:14-17**

James 2:14 What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be **naked, and destitute of daily food**, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those **things which are needful to the body**; what *doth it* profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Have compassion on the poor, however see further, see Jesus.

Consider **Matthew 25:34-46**

Matthew 25:34-46 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? ³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? ³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. ⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, ^kprepared for the devil and ^mhis angels: ⁴² For **I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.** ⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer him,

saying, Lord, when saw we thee **an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison**, and did not minister unto thee? ⁴⁵ Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. ⁴⁶ And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into ^rlife eternal.

Lord open our eyes that we might see!