

Date: 11 June 2023  
Speaker: Preacher Cornelius Koshy  
Topic: Do You Love the Poor?  
Text: Proverbs 14:20-21

1. “Poor” refers to one without money, not one who is pious. “Friends” can be translated as those who love the rich. In contrast, the poor are hated (see Prov 19:4,6-7)

2. God has “safety nets” to help the poor (Lev 19: 9-10, 15, Deut 15:7-11). Poverty will always be there as this is part of God's sovereign plan. As far as we can, we must not shut our bowels of compassion and give as we can. Riches come and go. Job began wealthy, and suddenly, he was in abject poverty (Job 19:13-21).

3. Three reasons why we must take heed

I. When we love the poor, we acknowledge God as the creator of both the rich and poor (Prov 14:31, 17:5, 22:2; 1 Sam 2:7-8).

II. We would expect God's blessings if we blessed the poor (Prov 11:24-26, Acts 20:35). The Lord will repay (Prov 19:17). We avoid God's wrath (Prov 17:5).

III. When we love the poor, we are Christ-like (Jas 2:1-10, 1 Jn 3:17).

4. The poor must still stand before God's judgement (Ex 23:3,6). We must be impartial to both the rich and the poor. There is no greater charity than that of sharing the Gospel. Giving is not to encourage dependency (2 Thess 3:10). Our acts of charity should not supersede our worship of Christ (Mt 26:6-13, 1 Cor 13:3). Acts of charity must be together with our ministry.

*[f]or God loveth a cheerful giver... 2 Corinthians 9:7*