

Intro:

Main Point of Text: People in low positions should not be mistreated, for Israel's gracious God cares about them.

Sermon Point: *Care for the poor.*

Move 1: Have compassion on the poor and afflicted in society.

Principle: do not take advantage of those who are weak, vulnerable, and defenseless.

Vss. 21-23: foreigners/strangers, widows/orphans; Vss. 25-27a: poor (Prov. 22:7, don't enslave bros.).

God hears all (23, 27). Vs. 21, "vex": "oppress/violent". Vss. 22-23, "afflict": "humble"; K&D: humiliate; not only unjust oppression: every kind of cold and contemptuous treatment. *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.* (James 1:27) Such reflects God. Vs. 27; Psalm 68:5; Psalm 146:9

Move 2: God will severely punish you who take advantage of the needy.

Vss. 23-24; 27b. Vs. 23, "If" an oath. Vs. 24, "sword": let other nations war with them and win. Israel's history. Ezek. 22:29-31. 2 Tim. 3:12; Luke 18:7.

Move 3: Your motivation to serve the needy is to see how Christ has taken care of your needs.

Vss. 21b (23): Empathy based on memory. Ex. 9:3ff (like they cried out and were answered). Vs. 27:

Compassion based on consideration. 2 Cor. 1:4; 8:1-8; 9-11: Christ Who was rich gave Himself to be poor for them. Ps. 40:17: *But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.* (Psalm 40:17) Christ became poor for you. He must be your motivation to care for the poor. Especially your own (Acts 6). Vs. 27, be like God; be morally reasonable, and gracious. Golden Rule: **Mat 7:12** *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

Conclusion:

Mt. 25:31-40; James 2:12-17; 2 Cor. 9:7.

Care for the poor.