

MONEY MOVE\$

Part 4: What Can I Do about Poverty?

WEEK OF MAY 30, 2021

There are over 364,000 people in Philadelphia who live in poverty. Once we open our eyes to it, what can we do about it?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
 - “Who is my neighbor?” = “Who exactly are we responsible to love?”
 - “Philadelphia continues to have the highest poverty rate among the nation’s largest cities...” | The Pew Charitable Trust, 2021 State of the City report
 - More than 364,000 people in our city live in poverty.
 - We can respond to poverty in three ways:
 - Provide relief.
 - Invest in development.
 - Work toward reform and systemic change.
 - What you can’t do as a follower of Jesus is nothing.
 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? | James 2:14-16
 - In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. | James 2:17
 - ...though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. | 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - Let’s be generous because Jesus was generous.
 - The question to wrestle with this week: What can you do to meet the needs around you?
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when someone immediately helped you before asking about how you found yourself in this situation? Have you come across your own “good Samaritan”? If so, describe the experience.
2. What is your usual response when you see, hear about, or come face-to-face with poverty around you (especially here in Philadelphia)?
3. After reading James 2:14-17, what action(s) do you feel God is calling you to take to address the poverty around us?
4. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan makes several sacrifices (his comfort, his convenience, his time, his money, etc.) to help the man on the side of the road. What might you need to sacrifice in order to help and meet the needs of people who are affected by poverty?