



NOT TO BE EXPECTED BACK

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

PROVERBS 19:17 NKJV – (17) He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD and He will pay back what he has given.

Proverbs 19:17 speaks primarily on Biblical standards of ethics, which places a high priority on caring for the poor. For example, the law of Moses specifically commands farmers not to harvest all of the food in their fields but to leave some behind for the poor to gather and thereby not go hungry (**Leviticus 19:10**). Repeatedly in the Prophets, we read harsh words of judgment against those who oppress the impoverished (**Isaiah 3:13–15**). If wisdom and right living go hand in hand, the wise man or woman will follow this biblical ethic, seeking to help those who have very little in terms of physical goods.

The 'law of usury' served as a reminder to the Jews that helping those in need is something that should be done without expecting anything in return. We find encouragement for caring for the poor that goes beyond mere duty in today's passage. True, we should care for the poor and obey all of the Lord's other commands simply because He is the Lord and He has the inherent right to determine the ethics of His creatures. but God is gracious, and He gives us many incentives for doing what is right in addition to making it purely a matter of duty.

When lending to the poor, our lending is not in vein; our giving is unto our Creator. And when lending to the impoverished, it is lending to the Lord because He has tied His glory and honor to the 'poor and needy' creatures, those that are made in His image and likeness (**Genesis 1:26–27**); His very life, death, and resurrection pledges to defend the cause of the needy (**Psalms 140:12**). God associates Himself with the needs of His people; that to give to them is to give to Him; And because of this, we never need to fear that giving to God or even looking for it back.

Now to the one who says to themselves, "He or she isn't poor and I gave." What about that? The bible wants you to know what **MATTHEW 25:40** READS – **(40)** And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 11:24-25

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."