

# Fighting Poverty?

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About me

What causes poverty?

According to the Bible, what causes poverty?

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Marc Driscoll:

Laziness and oppression

Laziness:

Proverbs 10:4

“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich”

Oppression :

Proverbs 13:23

“The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away by injustice.”

Does the Bible say we should help the poor?  
(Even though it may be their fault?)

According to the Bible, why should we help the poor?

But not *just* the poor...

Why –

-Commands

-Imitating

-Blessings

-Curses

-Proximity

Why –

-Commands

Deuteronomy 15:7

“If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother.”

Why –  
-Imitating

Isa 41:17

“When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them.”

Why –  
-Blessings

Proverbs 10:17

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,  
and he will reward him for what he has done.”

Why –  
-Punishment

Matthew 25:45-46

“Truly I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment...”

Why –  
-Proximity

Matthew 25:40

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

According to the Bible, what is it like to be poor?

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According to the Bible, “The poor are vulnerable (Prov. 18:23), shunned by friends (Prov. 14:20...), and become servants to the rich (Prov. 22:7) and can lead to crime (30:8-9).

Poverty is quite realistically presented in Job 24, where the poor are portrayed as hungry, thirsty, naked, and suffering from various kinds of injustice and oppression...”

-Baker, 1997

Poverty in Costa Rica:

21.2%

Oppression:

human trafficking

## Campo 4 – a case study













MS

## Campo 4:

### Need:

- low income
- some degree of comfort
- brink of hunger

### Oppression:

- corruption
  - the road
  - the migration scam



Campo 4, cont'd:

The role of laziness

According to the Bible, how should we help the poor?

## Give – Matthew 6

“Thus, when you give to the poor...”

-within and beyond your sphere

-the church

-child sponsorships

Fight for the poor:

Psalm 82:3-4:

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

So:

-stay clean

-give

-vote

-advocate

Disciple:

-“Love the one in front of you”

-teach to obey Prov 10:4 – “...the hand of the diligent makes rich”

-what I did, what I’d’ve done

-DR experiment

-OSU class