

Celebrating God's Favor, 2000 Reasons

Proverbs 19:17 “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”

**FEBRUARY 22, 2026
SCOTT SWEETLAND,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR, NHCC**

Celebrating God's Favor - Introduction

How many verses there are in the Bible that address the themes of poverty, justice, and the responsibility to care for the marginalized and the oppressed?

Over 2000!!

Celebrating God's Favor - Introduction

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Celebrating God's Favor - Introduction

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Celebrating God's Favor

Family Christmas Party

Sponsored by: Tita Beth & Uncle Scott

Thank you so much!

Proverbs 11:25: "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered well," teaching that giving generously leads to receiving abundance.

James 1:17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.



Celebrating God's Favor - Introduction

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Celebrating God's Favor – data

- ▶ **700 million** people live in extreme poverty (less than \$3.00/day)
- ▶ The majority of the world's extreme poor live in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by South Asia.
- ▶ Nearly 90% of children living in extreme poverty reside in either sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.
- ▶ As of 2023, the poverty rate in the United States was 11.1%, with approximately **36.8 million** people living in poverty.
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic pushed an additional 70 million people into extreme poverty, marking the largest one-year increase in decades.

Celebrating God's Favor – God's heart

Deuteronomy 15:11 - "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

Proverbs 14:31 "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

Celebrating God's Favor – God's heart

Luke 6:20–21: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

James 2:5: “Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?”

Celebrating God's Favor – God's heart

1 John 3:17-18 - “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

The way we treat the poor reflects our LOVE for God

Celebrating God's Favor – Jesus' mandate

Luke 4:18 - “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”

Celebrating God's Favor – Jesus' mandate

Matthew 25:35-40 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see YOU hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give YOU something to drink?

Celebrating God's Favor – Jesus' mandate

Matthew 25:35-40 continued:

When did we see YOU a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see YOU sick or in prison and go to visit you? “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for ME.’”

Serving the poor equals serving Jesus!

Celebrating God's Favor – Jesus' mandate

James 2:15-17: “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? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

A living faith is simply real faith!

NHCC MISSIONS:

LOCAL



Berea
A Berea Ministry



NATIONAL



INTERNATIONAL



New Hampton Community Church

"Leading people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ"

Celebrating God's Favor

Nicaragua Mission Trip, 2017



Walter

PS2

PS1

Linda B

Rudi

Linda L

Mike L

Karen



Celebrating God's Favor – Blessings of Obedience

Generosity brings divine reward and gospel transformation!

Proverbs 11:25 - “Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered well” teaching that giving generously leads to receiving abundance.

Proverbs 22:9 – “The generous will themselves be

Celebrating God's Favor – Blessings of Obedience

2 Corinthians 9:6-8: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

THE **7** BABY STEPS

-  STEP 1: **SAVE \$1,000**
in a beginner emergency fund.
-  STEP 2: **PAY OFF ALL DEBT**
except for the house.
-  STEP 3: **SAVE 3-6 MONTHS**
of expenses for emergencies.
-  STEP 4: **INVEST 15%**
of your income for retirement.
-  STEP 5: **SAVE FOR COLLEGE**
for your children.
-  STEP 6: **PAY OFF HOUSE**
-  STEP 7: **BUILD WEALTH & GIVE**

Dave Ramsey's 7 Baby Steps

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#7 is Build
Wealth & Give!



What Can I do?

- ▶ Commit to a specific act of showing kindness to the poor this week
- ▶ Worshipping God by serving the poor is living the Bible!
- ▶ Examine your heart.
- ▶ Is anything preventing you from reflecting a heart like Jesus?



Celebrating God's Favor



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Celebrating God's Favor Angel ("Princess") Day in the City

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Questions?

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