

Living IN Rhythm

COMMITTING PRAYING LOVING

August 28, 2022

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

GOD'S HEART FOR THE CITY

CASE STUDY: NEHEMIAH

BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

ACTS 1:8

GOD WORKS THROUGH UNANSWERED PRAYER AS MUCH AS THROUGH ANSWERED PRAYER AND LEADS YOU INTO PLACES YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GO.

GENESIS 12:1

MATTHEW 25:35-36, 40

JAMES 2:15-17

"In contrast, in the pagan world, and especially among the philosophers, mercy was regarded as a character defect and pity as a pathological emotion: because mercy involves providing unearned help or relief, it is contrary to justice."

- Rodney Stark "The Triumph of Christianity"

"Classical philosophers taught that 'mercy indeed is not governed by reason at all', and humans must learn 'to curb the impulse'; 'the cry of the underserving for mercy' must go 'unanswered'.....Pity was a defect of character unworthy of the wise and excusable only in those who have not yet grown up."

- E.A. Judge

"'Nobody ought to go begging among Christians,' wrote Martin Luther in the first of his three tracts in 1520. 'There should be no beggars among Christians,' asserted Andreas Karlstadt in his January 1522 tract. In these quotes, two of the earliest Wittenberg reformers set a new standard for poor relief. A Christian society could not neglect taking care of the poor, but it was a tall order in an era of plagues, harsh winters, crop failures, and economic downturns. Religious leaders, in their multiple roles as preachers, policymakers, advocates, and community leaders, sought to help create another layer of support for the vulnerable because poverty was a problem too big for any one group to tackle."

- Esther Chung-Kim

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1 JOHN 3:18

"...there is nothing remarkable in cherishing merely our own people with the due attentions of love....Thus the good was done to all men, not merely to the household of faith."

- Cyprian the martyred third-century Bishop of Carthage

"The Christians....ran a miniature welfare state in an empire which for the most part lacked social services."

- Paul Johnson

"These gifts are, as it were, piety's deposit fund. For they are not taken thence and spent on feasts, and drinking bouts, and eating houses, but to support and bury poor people, to supply the wants of boys and girls of destitute means and parents, and of old persons confined now to the house; such, too, as have suffered shipwreck; and if there happen to be any in the mines, or banished to the islands, or shut up in prisons, for nothing but their fidelity to the cause of God's Church, they become the nurslings of their confession."

- Tertullian (155-222 AD)

"Deacons 'are to be doers of good works, exercising a general supervision day or night, neither scorning the poor nor respecting the person of the rich; they must ascertain who are in distress and not exclude them from a share in church funds; compelling also the well-to-do to put money aside for good works."

- Apostolic Confession

"At the first onset of the disease, they (pagans) pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into the roads before they were dead and treated unburied corpses as dirt, hoping thereby to avert the spread and contagion of the fatal disease..."

- Bishop Dionysius (about 251 AD)

PHILIPPIANS 1:21

JOHN 15:12-13

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NEHEMIAH 1:1-11**

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