

A Heart for the Poor & Needy

"She opens her hands to the poor. Yes, she reaches out her filled hands to the needy [whether in body, mind or spirit]." Proverbs 31:20 Amplified



Number 18 in the series "God's Virtuous Woman"

When we open our hearts to Jesus, He will give us His heart for the poor and needy. It is impossible to love Jesus and not have His love and compassion for hurting people.

In 1998 I went on a five week trip to Scotland, the land of my birth. I traveled throughout the country teaching and ministering from God's Word. Scotland is such a beautiful country. Each time I go there I experience great joy and great sorrow. Scotland was the land of the great revivals and was blessed with men and women who taught and preached with great power. But it is also a land of great sin. Whenever I would travel, I would see those who deeply loved Jesus and had surrendered their lives to Him. I met the spiritually hungry, and I also met those playing church. I met those who had their heads full of Bible knowledge but with no daily application in their lives.

As I returned several years, I had the joy of seeing those whose lives are being cleansed, healed and restored by the power of applying God's Word. And I had the heartache of seeing those who continue to attend church and play the hypocrite as they play with pride, sin and rebellion. With great sorrow, I see those who refuse God's gift of salvation through Jesus and those who turn away from God's truth and fall back because

they love this world more than they love Jesus. Male and female, young and old, rich and poor, in all categories I saw the needy in spirit, soul and body.

As I reached out to them with God's amazing grace through His Word to save the lost, heal the brokenhearted, free those in bondage to addictions, restore marriages, and comfort the hurting, I have had the joy of seeing many receive God's help and have lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. I can only imagine the sorrow that Jesus feels daily as many refuse His amazing grace. I see the same as I minister God's Word across the U.S. and in other countries.

Jesus is reaching out to the lost, and Jesus is reaching out to revive His church. The Holy Spirit is reaching out to the needy through men and women who love Jesus. Some accept that help, and some refuse it.

How about you? Jesus is reaching out to you. Will you receive His amazing grace, love, mercy and forgiveness, or will you refuse it? There is no joy or peace that can be compared to a life surrendered to Jesus Christ daily.

— Janice McBride

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