

Isaiah: “The King of the Prophets” – Poverty

Pastor Kent Groethe

1. Human Failure to Care for Those in Need

“ . . . you do as you please and exploit all your workers.” Isaiah 58:3

*“The Lord enters into judgment against the elders and leaders of his people:
‘It is you who have ruined my vineyard; the plunder from the poor is in your
houses. What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the face of
the poor?’”* Isaiah 3:14-15

*“Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive
decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from
the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing
the fatherless.”* Isaiah 10:1-2

2. Call to care for the needy.

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every
yoke. Is it not to share your food with the hungry and provide the poor
wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked to clothe them . . .”*
Isaiah 58:6-7

*“ . . . stop doing wrong. Learn to do right. Seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”*
Isaiah 1:16-17

3. The Job Description of the Messiah. Jesus quotes it to start his ministry.

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed
me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the
broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from
darkness for the prisoners.”* Isaiah 61:1

4. We Take Over the Messiah’s Job Now.

*“ . . . spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the
oppressed. . . .”* Isaiah 58:10

5. God calls us to give life to the poorest people on earth – those who are not yet saved and in relationship with God.

*“ . . . I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach
to the ends of the earth.”* Isaiah 49:6

6. God’s Promise to the Poor.

*“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are
parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will
not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights and springs
within the valleys.”* Isaiah 41:17-18

*“The poorest of the poor will find pastures, and the needy will lie
down in safety.”* Isaiah 14:30