



# *INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS*

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 5 - 6

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## Ministering To The Disadvantaged

It is never easy to satisfy the question of suffering in the world. A true answer is to say that all misfortune is a result of sin, but that only creates more questions. Some questions we must leave in God's hands, knowing that He is compassionate and just, and in eternity there will be no sorrow. That conclusion, however, does not bring the subject to a close. All of us who are advantaged are called to support, defend and give justice to those who are disadvantaged. God loves the poor, the handicapped, the immigrant, the widow and the orphan and insists that we care for them. It is a sin to ignore them and a curse to misuse them. Conversely, we are blessed if we bless them and enriched when we discover the hidden treasures within them. Herein lies the test of all true religion.

Franky was a downs syndrome man who was a member of our church years ago. He was overflowing with love and kindness but he could not read or speak. When he wanted to communicate he would grunt. With much frustration he would struggle to get his message across. On occasion, in a small group setting, he would point to a scripture in the Bible and insist that the one sitting beside him read it out loud. It was always a word from God. On Sunday morning, this 40-year-old man would sit on the front row and play a harmonica during the worship time. It was never loud enough to offend or disturb anyone, but it was his doorway to worship. When I was preaching, suddenly I would notice that Franky was looking up at me with tears streaming down his face. I learned that the Holy Spirit was about to do something powerful when this happened in the meetings. Franky was always the first to sense the release of the Holy Spirit. He is now in heaven, but I will never forget him or the grace of God that he possessed.

Immigrants, widows, orphans, the handicapped and the poor are often gifted with amazing inner beauty. God sees all these things and I am sure He smiles.

For our study, I have used the term disadvantaged peoples, to refer to this entire group. I include widows, orphans, immigrants, the poor and the handicapped. Not all of these people are disadvantaged or suffering. Some are well off, but many are really struggling. God expresses great love for them all and speaks of them throughout the scriptures. Here is a Bible overview of God's heart for the disadvantaged. We start our study in the oldest book in the Bible.

**Job** lived before Abraham. He rescued and fed the orphan, poor, handicapped, immigrant and made the widow's heart to rejoice (Job 29:12-17, 31:16-22).

**The Jewish Law** that God initiated, commanded that some tithes, offerings and gleanings from the field be given to widows, orphans, immigrants and the poor (De. 14:28-29, 24:19). The Jews were commanded not to hurt or abuse the handicapped, the poor, the widows, immigrants, or orphans. God announced that He was their avenger and all who mistreated them would be judged and cursed (Ex. 22:22, De. 27:18-19).

**The Psalms and Proverbs** tell us that God is the mighty defender of the disadvantaged. He said their

defender is strong, so be careful how you treat them. The Lord warned, “do not encroach on the field of the fatherless.” (Ps. 10:18, 68:5, 82:3, Prov. 23:10) On the proactive side, He said, if you give money to the poor you lend to God. He will pay you back and you will lack for nothing. Even the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is praised because she gives to the disadvantaged (Prov. 19:17, 28:27, 31:20).

### The Old Testament Prophets

taught about caring for and defending the disadvantaged. Isaiah said, “Share your food with the hungry and you will shine,” (Isa. 1:16-23, 58:6-7) Ezekiel said, “Stand in the gap for them to rescue them” (Eze. 16:49, 22:7-29) Jeremiah and Daniel taught us to care for the disadvantaged (Dan. 4:27, Jer. 7:6, 22:3, 49:11) Hosea told us that God is compassionate toward the orphan (Hos. 14:3) and Amos and Malachi said that God would judge those who oppress orphans and disadvantaged people (Am. 6:3-7, Mal. 3:5).

### Jesus Helped the Disadvantaged.

He preached good news to the poor, healed the sick and dying, blessed down trodden widows, accepted and loved immigrants, blessed little children and ministered life to the handicapped.

He led by example. He said, “*The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of God’s favor.*” (Lk. 4:18-19)

**The Apostles** cared for the needs of widows (Acts 6:1-3). They also taught that, “*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*” (Js. 1:27)

Recently, Joy and I ministered in many towns and cities in Bulgaria. Some of the people there were surprised that we went to the small villages. In that country, an average wage in the big city is \$600 USD per month and a good village wage is only about \$300 USD per month. The village people are especially humble and poor. Many are disadvantaged and handicapped. Still, they are courageous people and they have great love and care one for another. We were honored to be with them for the purposes of the Gospel. We prayed for the sick and brought a higher level of faith and hope to all. They embraced us and our ministry with great passion. Reports of supernatural wonders, physical healings and deliverance followed us in the villages.

We minister in places that are even more needy than those in Bulgaria. In such countries as India, the nations of Africa, and in Mexico, poverty can be a national curse. These curses intensify the struggle of millions around the world.

Many poor and disadvantaged believers have received amazing grace to fight their battles. Some villagers become outstanding ministers themselves. Many, however, are extremely disadvantaged and in great need of a supernatural miracle.

Whether in villages or major cities, people need God. We see His love for the disadvantaged. The rich, the poor, the weak, the sick, the elderly and the lonely have the good news of the Gospel preached to them. We lay our hands on them, break curses and pray for miracles.

Jesus said, “*Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.*” (Mt. 11:4-5)

This is what God calls us to. We do not see as many miracles as He did but we still see them at every turn. Whatever your calling is, become a minister to the disadvantaged? **AΩ**



## Christians for Messiah Ministries

**Instructions in Righteousness** is produced monthly by “Christians for Messiah Ministries.” Dr. Peter D. Wyns is the President of “Christians for Messiah Ministries.” After 35 years of extensive ministry in more than 35 nations, he is now based in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, contact “Christians for Messiah Ministries.”

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