



## Scriptures That Inspire Us to Care for the Poor and Welcome the Stranger

In a world where poverty and displacement continue to cause suffering, people of faith are called to embody radical compassion. The Bible speaks powerfully about caring for those who are poor, marginalized, or strangers among us. These timeless teachings invite us to extend love, hospitality, and justice—values central to the heart of the gospel and to our call as progressive Christians.

Here are some key scriptures to inspire our ministries and daily lives as we work to build communities rooted in love and equity:

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### **Old Testament: God's Command to Love the Poor and the Stranger**

**Leviticus 19:9–10** reminds us to leave part of our abundance for others:

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges... Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.”

**Leviticus 19:33–34** commands us to love those from outside our community as ourselves:

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner... must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself...”

**Deuteronomy 10:18–19** shows God's special care for the vulnerable:

“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners...”

**Deuteronomy 15:7–8** urges generosity toward neighbors in need:

“If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites... do not be hardhearted or tightfisted... Rather, be openhanded and freely lend...”

**Psalms 82:3–4** calls us to take an active role in justice:

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.”

**Proverbs 14:31** links kindness to worship:

“Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”



## ✨ Prophetic Voices: Justice as Worship

**Isaiah 1:17** gives a clear call to action:

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

These verses remind us that faith is not merely a personal experience but a public commitment to justice, equity, and mercy.

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## 🌿 New Testament: Jesus’ Radical Welcome

In **Matthew 25:35–40**, Jesus identifies himself with those in need:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... I was a stranger and you invited me in... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did for me.”

**Luke 14:13–14** challenges us to make space at our tables:

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.”

**James 1:27** highlights true faith in action:

“Religion that God our Parent accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...”

**Hebrews 13:2** reminds us of the sacredness of hospitality:

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

**Galatians 2:10** emphasizes remembering the poor:

“All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.”



## ♥ A Call for Today

These scriptures are not relics of the past; they are a living invitation for us to act with compassion today. In welcoming the stranger, advocating for justice, and caring for those experiencing poverty, we participate in God's work of love and liberation.

As progressive Christians, may we commit ourselves to ministries that uplift the vulnerable and break down barriers. May our churches be sanctuaries of hospitality where all people find dignity and belonging.