

# BEVERAGES AND BIBLES

**“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”**

**— Hélder Câmara**

**Introduction Question - When you were a kid, what was your favorite sack lunch?**

**Question: What is poverty?**

- “Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.” - Mother Teresa
- “You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know.” - William Wilberforce
- “How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure but it is news when the stock market loses two points?” - Pope Francis
- “Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit.” - Eli Khamarov

**Question: How does our current economic system encourage social mobility to escape poverty or keep people trapped in poverty?**

- “A person cannot be religious and indifferent to other human beings’ plight and suffering. In face, the tragedy of man is that so much of our history is a history of indifference, dominated by a famous statement, ‘Am I my brothers keeper?’” - Abraham Joshua Heschel
- “It is very expensive to give bad medical care to poor people in a rich country.” - Paul Farmer
- “The Bible insists that the best test of a nation's righteousness is how it treats the poorest and most vulnerable in its midst.” - Jim Wallis

**Question: When is enough enough? How much money do you need in your checking, savings, 401k? When is a home big enough? When is a car new enough? Are there spending and savings habits that you need to reevaluate?**

- "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." - Franklin Roosevelt
- "We helped others, it is true, but we did not deprive ourselves in order to help others. We had no philosophy of poverty." - Dorothy Day
- "You can't comfort the afflicted without afflicting the comfortable." - Diana, Princess of Wales

**Question: When Jesus says, "You will always have the poor with you" (Mark 14:7, Matthew 26:11) does Jesus mean that poverty is inevitable, or does Jesus mean that poor people will always find safety and security in the church?**

- "Whoever is kind to the needy honors God." - Proverbs 14:31
- "You can't get rid of poverty by giving people money." - P.J. O'Rourke
- "It would be nice if the poor were to get even half of the money that is spent in studying them." - William E. Vaughn
- "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." - 1 Timothy 6:18

**Question: How would our economy look different if we followed Jesus' greatest commandments to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, should and mind" and "Love others as much as you love yourself"? (Matthew 22:37-38)**

- "We despise anyone who elects to be poor in order to simplify and save his inner life. If he does not join the general scramble, we deem him spiritless and lacking ambition. We have lost the power even of imagining what the ancient realization of poverty could have meant; the liberation from material attachments, the unburied soul..." - William James

- “There are not two categories of people. There are not some who were born to have everything and leave others with nothing and a majority that has nothing and can’t enjoy the happiness that God has created for all. God wants a Christian society, one in which we share the good things that God has given for all of us.” - Oscar Romero
- “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grape that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.” - Leviticus 19:9-10
- “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” - Proverbs 22:9

**Question: What can you do to alleviate suffering in a specific, tangible, way? What role will you play in making things on “earth as it is in heaven?”**

- “The older I get, the more I meet people, the more convinced I am that we must only work on ourselves, to grow in grace. The only thing we can do about people is to love them.” - Dorothy Day
- “Love is the effort and desire to make someone else everything they were created to be” - Tim Keller
- “When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.” - Saint Basil the Great
- “Most good things have been said far too many times and just need to be lived.” - Shane Claiborne
- "Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a child isn't" - Jeff Bridges

### **Parable - The Rich Man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31**

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”