

Acts Series

Lesson #51

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

“Grace, Mercy, and the Poor” Acts 4:32–5:16



Economic Parameters



Lev. 19:18, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but

you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

Lev. 25:35, “If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.” [“Your” is a singular pronoun emphasizing personal responsibility]

Deut. 15:7, “If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother;

Deut. 15:8, “but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks.”

Deut. 15:11, “For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.’ ”

Mark 14:7, “For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.”

Lev. 19:15, “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness [בְּצֶדֶק *betzedek*] you shall judge your neighbor.”

Prov. 29:14, “The king who judges the poor with truth, his throne will be established forever.”

Deut. 24:14, “You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates.”

Ex. 22:25, “If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest.”

usury (OED) the practice of lending money at unreasonably high rates of interest.

Lev. 25:35, “If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.

Lev. 25:36, “Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you.

Lev. 25:37, “You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit.

Lev. 25:38, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.”

**usury the practice of lending money at
unreasonably high rates of interest.**

Prov. 28:8, “One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.”

Ezek. 18:17, “Who has withdrawn his hand from the poor and not received usury or increase, but has executed My judgments and walked in My statutes—he shall not die for the iniquity of his father; he shall surely live!”