A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's face, focusing on their closed eyes and a tear on their cheek. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the individual eyelashes. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with greenery.

Defending and Pleading for the Poor

Increase in Wealth – Less Empathy

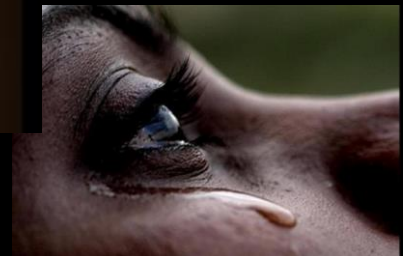
Paul Piff researching the effects of power on people

Does money make you mean?

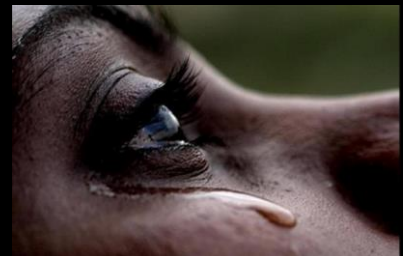
TEDxMarin · 16:35 · Filmed Oct 2013

30 subtitle languages ?

View interactive transcript



Does the car you drive affect your attitude?



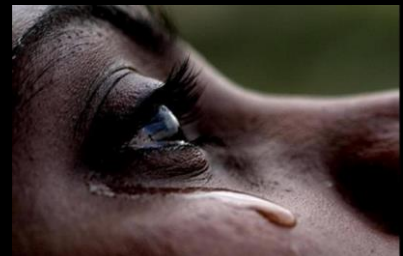
Human thinking towards wealth.

Increase in Wealth → Less empathy.

Our minds tell us “I earned this.”

More Wealth, more entitlement to wealth, and more prone to keep wealth at detriment of others.

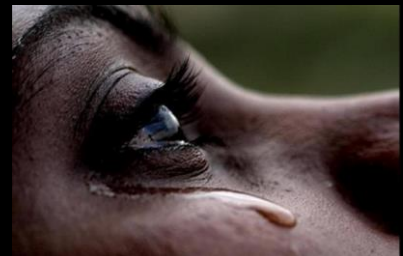
Keeping the Status Quo



Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12

¹⁵ Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. ¹⁷ And he began **reasoning to himself**, saying, ‘What shall **I** do, since **I** have no place to store **my crops**?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘This is what **I** will do: **I** will tear down **my** barns and build larger ones, and there **I** will store all **my** grain and **my** goods. ¹⁹ And **I** will say to **my** soul, “Soul, **you** have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take **your** ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’ ²¹ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

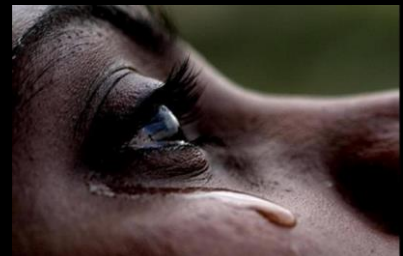


Parable of the Rich Fool

14 Times

Luke 12

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A top-down view of a group of people, likely children, sitting on the ground and holding their hands out in a circle. The hands are of various skin tones and are all open, palms up, in a gesture of begging or pleading for help. The ground is covered with dry, yellowish-brown straw or hay. The overall scene conveys a sense of poverty and hunger.

OVER 800 MILLION PEOPLE GO TO SLEEP HUNGRY
THAT'S 11% OF THE WORLD, AND DOUBLE THE POPULATION OF THE U.S.



Wealthy countries waste 15,000 lbs of food every second

This equates to 19% of all the food we buy

Number of doctors per 100,000 population

LIBERIA: 1.4



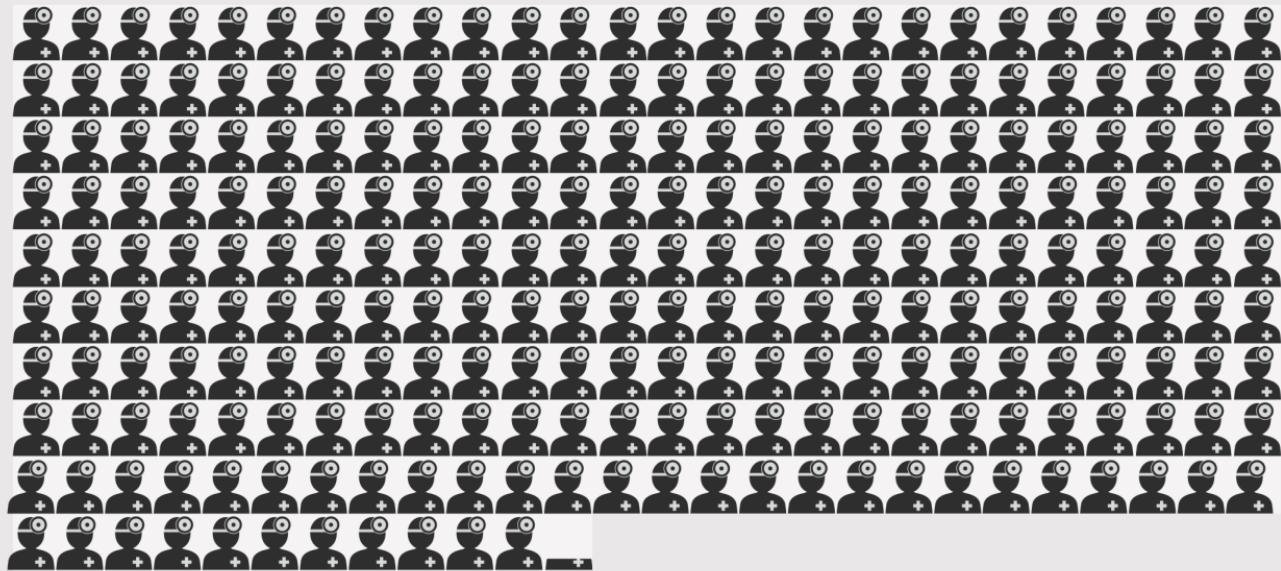
SIERRA LEONE: 2.2



GUINEA: 10



UNITED STATES: 245.2



SOURCE: WHO



**THERE ARE MORE SLAVES NOW THAN
ANY TIME IN HISTORY.**

THE EQUIVALENT OF
**35 DOUBLE DECKER BUS
LOADS** OF MEN, WOMEN
AND CHILDREN ARE
TRAFFICKED **EVERY DAY**
AND FORCED INTO SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION, CRIME,
DOMESTIC SERVITUDE
AND SLAVE LABOUR.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IT HAPPENS HERE, IT'S HAPPENING NOW

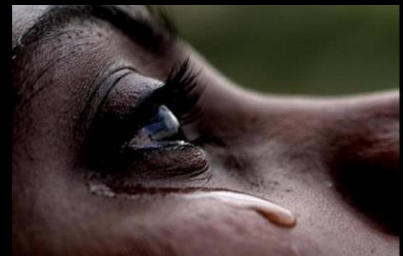


Every year 50,000 women and children are brought into the United States to work as slaves.

Amos 2:8

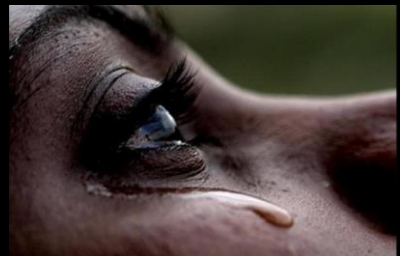
Why are there poor in the world?

1. Choice
2. Something bad happened to them.
3. Sin – Infirmities of the flesh
4. Oppression by the rich and powerful

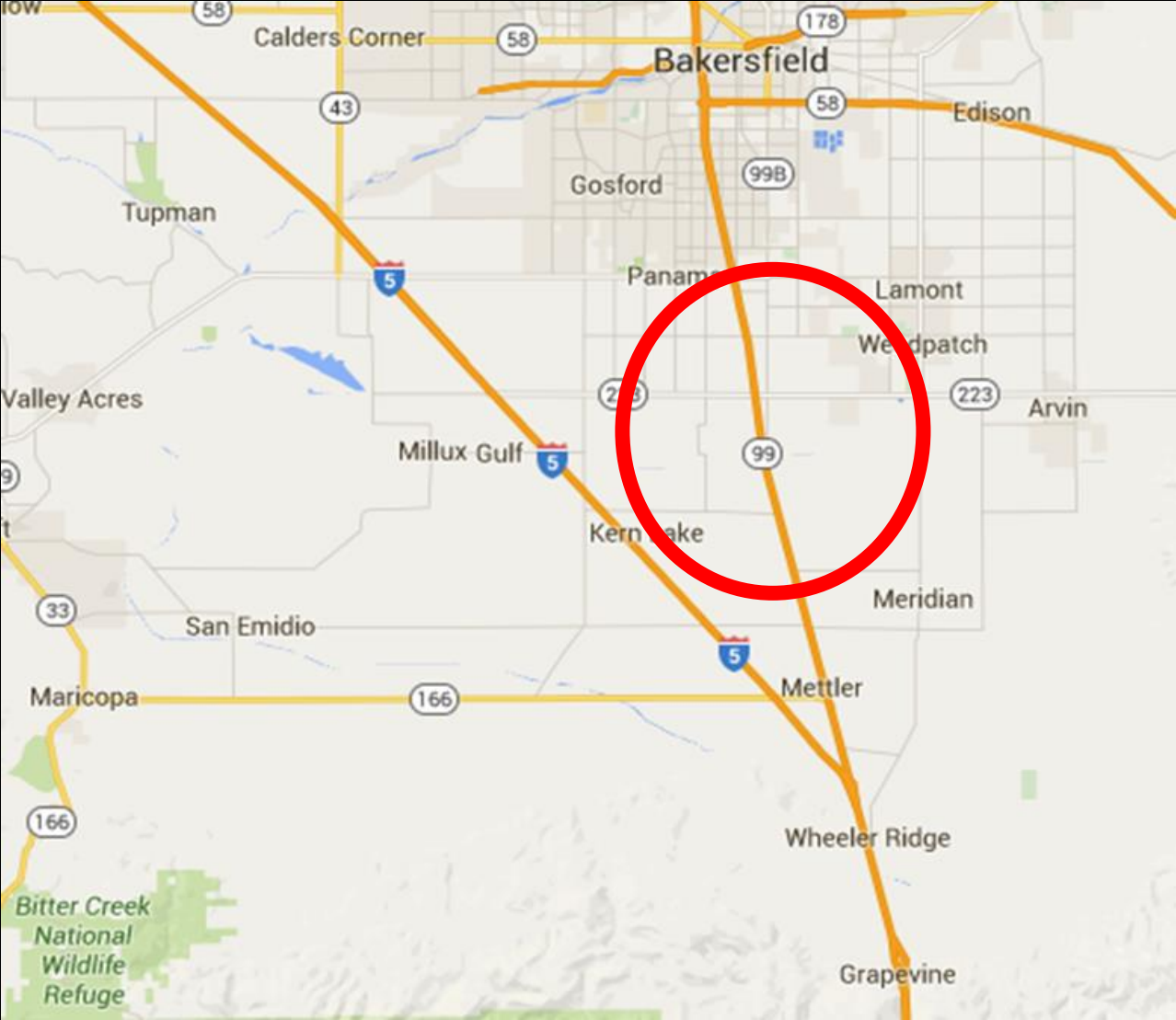


Myths about the Poor

Poor People are Lazy

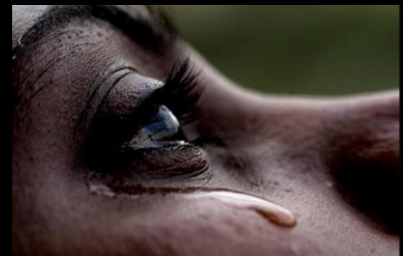


Myths about the Poor



Myths about the Poor

Poor people get by on benefits while the rest of us have to work for everything.



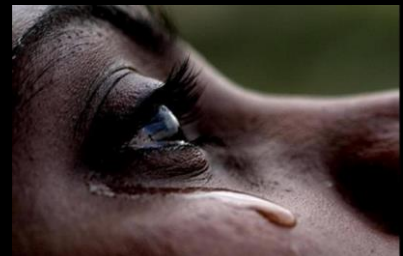
Myths about the Poor

Medicare

Social Security

Mortgage Interest Deduction

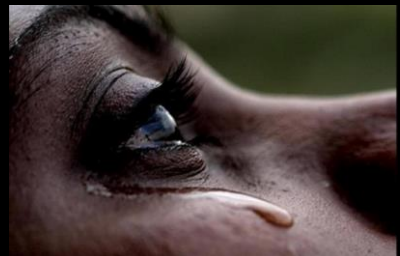
Senior Citizen Pass to National Parks



Don't use your power to benefit yourself at others' expense; use it to benefit others at your expense.

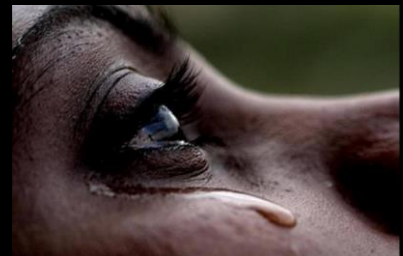
C. Philip Green

Remembering Nehemiah (Neh 5 & 6)



Motives behind helping poor

The **Duke of Burgundy** was waited upon by a **poor man**, a very loyal subject, who brought him a very large root which he had grown. He was a very poor man indeed, and every root he grew in his garden was of consequence to him; but merely as a loyal offering he brought to his prince the largest his little garden produced. The prince was so pleased with the man's evident loyalty and affection that he gave him a very large sum. The **steward** thought, "Well, I see this pays; this man has got fifty pounds for his large root, I think I shall make the Duke a present." So he bought a horse and he reckoned that he should have in return ten times as much for it as it was worth, and he presented it with that view: the duke, like a wise man, quietly accepted the horse, and gave the greedy steward nothing.

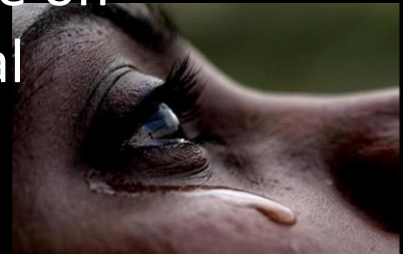


For the poor will **never cease to be in the land**; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.' Deut 15:11



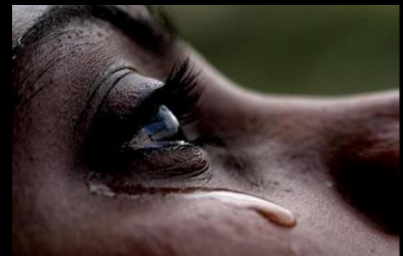
Treatment of the poor in Old Testament

1. Every third year a tithe was given for the care of the poor (Deut. 14:28, 29; 26:12).
2. The poor were free to have use of all that grew spontaneously in the field or vineyard during the Sabbatic year (Exo. 23:10; Lev. 25:5,6).
3. Every year, the poor were allowed to glean on the fields and vineyards; the corners of the field were to be left for them, and if a sheaf was forgotten, it belongs to the poor (Lev. 19:9,10; 23:22; 24:19).
4. The poor can eat fruit and ripe grain in the field, but should not be carried away (Deut. 23:24, 25)
5. The poor were invited to participate in the annual Feast of Weeks – Tabernacles (Deut 16:9-12)
6. Every 7th year debts were released (Deut 15:1); Jewish slaves were set free on the 7th year of service; during Jubilee all lands were returned to their original owners (Lev 25:8-7)



Treatment of the poor in New Testament

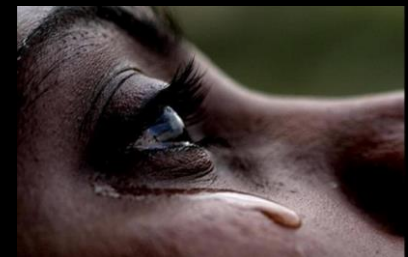
1. Jesus started His ministry saying He came to preach to the poor (Luke 4:18ff)
2. Jesus gave Matthew 25:31ff to show that God expects His people to care for the poor.
3. The early church cared for their poor (Acts 2, 4, 6).
4. Paul continued this care in His ministry to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:10).
5. Paul instructed churches to care for their poor.
6. Paul fundraised for Jews in Corinth
7. James talked about pure religion in 1:27



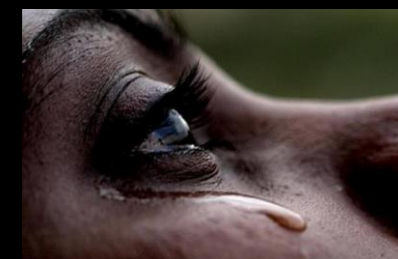
Empathy vs Sympathy



<http://www.openculture.com/2013/12/the-power-of-empathy.html>



Yawning a sign of empathy



Exposure to Less Fortunate →
More Empathy for Poor

