

Helping the Needy

Acts 4:31-36

Main idea: To inspire and encourage the audience to help the needy by emphasizing the importance of compassionate empathy and unity among believers.

Topic: Helping the Needy

Scripture Verses to Support the Sermon on Helping the Needy:

1. Matthew 25:35-40 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
2. Proverbs 19:17 - "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."
3. Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Language Suggestions from Original Scriptures:

1. Acts 4:32 - The Greek word used for "one heart and mind" is "homothumadon," which emphasizes unity and harmony among believers. You can highlight the importance of unity in serving the needy.

2. Acts 4:34 - The Greek word used for "distribution" is "diadidomi," which implies a deliberate and intentional act of sharing. Emphasize the intentionality behind helping the needy.

Other Relevant Scriptures:

1. James 2:14-17 - "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." This passage emphasizes the importance of putting our faith into action by helping those in need.

2. Proverbs 14:21 - "Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor." This verse highlights the blessings that come from being generous to the poor.

Suggestions for Reinforcing Current Ideas:

1. Share real-life stories or examples of individuals or organizations that have made a significant impact in helping the needy. This can inspire and encourage your audience.

2. Provide practical steps or resources for your listeners to get involved in helping the needy, such as volunteering at local shelters, donating to charitable organizations, or participating in community outreach programs.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and Scriptures seamlessly into your sermon to reinforce the message of compassionate empathy and the importance of helping the needy.