



Let's Not Harden Our Hearts **Deuteronomy 15:4-11; Matthew 25:42-45**

“If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.”
(Deuteronomy 15:7-8—ESV).

When the LORD gave His law, He looked forward to a time when Israel would become a great kingdom. Indeed, Israel became so wealthy that it would or could lend gold and silver to many nations. But God forbid Israel to borrow. To borrow from other nations would imply that the LORD could not meet the needs of His people, and by borrowing they would show their lack of trust in the LORD. They would become slaves to the nation that loaned to them and pay exorbitant interest rates. On an personal level, someone can go so far into debt that they feel the heavy burden of debt upon them. As children of God, the LORD commands us to care for one another. We will always have poor brothers and sisters in the family of God, and God especially commands us to care for widows and orphans. The LORD commands us to give freely and not grudgingly to the poor. God's people are some of means God uses for the care of those in need, so the LORD commands us not to harden our hearts in selfishness.

Jesus obeyed all the Law of God, the Law of Love, not so we wouldn't need to, but to show us ways we could obey the LORD too. If someone was in need, Jesus helped them. If 5000 people were hungry, he fed them without expecting to be repaid. If the son of a widow died, he helped her by raising him from the dead. We cannot do everything Jesus did, but if we say we follow Him, we can and will do some things He did to help the poor and needy. We will not do so grudgingly or expect them to repay us. We have received the love and grace of God and many wonderful blessings from Jesus, all freely given and far beyond what we could ever repay. Jesus expects us to follow Him by going and doing likewise when we can. God always blesses His children beyond expectation.