

Sermon Notes
Road to Jericho
“Mercy with Accountability”

I. Introduction

- A. Test of Christian love.
 - 1. Keller
 - 2. I John 3:17-18
- B. Do not ignore the poor man.
 - 1. Proverbs 14:31; 19:17
- C. Some needs are so immediate that no evaluation may be done before meeting the need.
 - 1. Matthew 5:40-48.
 - a. Suing, verse 40
 - b. Mercy, verse 44
 - 2. Examples from Pastor Don.
- D. Yet, most mercy is given with accountability.
 - 1. Reasons:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

II. Example texts on giving with accountability.

- A. II Thessalonians 3:6-15.
 - 1. Pastor Don’s dissertation.
 - 2. Accountability helps to avoid abuse of charity or enablement.
- B. I Timothy 5:3-16
 - 1. Proper care of widows in the early church.
 - a. Acts 6:1 (reasons).

- 2. This letter reflects Paul’s concern on many church related issues including widows.
- 3. Paul divides widows into five categories.
 - a. One: The widow indeed, verses 3, 5, 16.
 - b. Two: The widow who has family, verse 4.
 - c. Three: The widow who lives in wanton pleasure, vs. 6.
 - d. Four: Widows places on “the list,” verses 9-10.
 - 1. Key point.
 - 2. Devoted to every good work, verse 10.
 - a. Note connection to Dorcas – Acts 9:36,39.
 - e. Five: The younger widow, verse 11.
- 4. Note special focus on verse 9 (to be put on the list.)
 - a. Mercy was taking place, but some are charged with making evaluations on worthiness to be put on “the list.”
 - b. Discipline is in view.
 - 1. Marlin Jeschke.
 - 2. Dissertation.
 - c. Widow’s submission.
 - 1. Note membership – I Thessalonians 5:12.
 - d. Help with accountability.

III. Points for Reflection.

- A. Sometimes we must give time, talent or treasure because of an immediate need.
- B. Sometimes we must restrain giving because of the presence of an immoral lifestyle and the repetitive nature of ungodly living.
- C. Sometimes discipline and mercy are required. Accountability must be taught, appreciated, and submitted to.