

# Good Works, Inc.

A Community of HOPE since 1981

## Devotional

He has showed you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God

Micah 6:8

GOOD WORKS, INC.  
**Justice & Mercy Devotional**

**Introduction**

*Lord, use this devotional to inspire my thirst for righteousness and justice (Matthew 5:6 & Romans 14:17). Cause my understanding of your heart for the poor and oppressed to grow, and increase my (our) perspective of the kingdom of God.*

*Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,  
and he will repay him for his deed.*

*Proverbs 28:27 - He who gives to the poor will lack nothing,  
but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.*

*Proverbs 28:5—Evil men do not understand justice  
but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.*

**Prior to beginning each devotional, spend a few minutes in prayer asking God to reveal to you something from God's word. A suggestion is to pray these phrases from Psalm 119:9-11:**

How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your word.  
I seek you with all my heart;  
Do not let me stray from your commands.

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

**Then, read the scriptures and record your thoughts and observations and answers to the questions posed in this short devotional. You can always write more than the space provided.**

**DEVOTIONAL 1**

Our Relationship with God

Question: What are some of the foundational principals stated in these verses? What do you (we) want to become or be like in light of these verses?

1. Exodus 33:12-17(needing God's presence):

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2. John 4:21-26 (about worship):

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3. Hebrews 3:7-14 (about our hearts):

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What is the prayer on your heart generated from these verses? Write out *your* prayer

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## **DEVOTIONAL 2**

The Mission of Jesus

Read Luke 4:16-30. Based on this passage, what is the mission of Jesus?

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Did you know that Jesus is reading from chapter 61 in the book of Isaiah? Read the rest of the section Jesus was reading from: Isaiah 61:1-11. Describe some of the other promises of God from what you read:

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### **DEVOTIONAL 3**

Love of Money

Read: Deuteronomy 8, Proverbs 30:7-9, 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

What is the danger of having too much? What are we to "guard our hearts" against?

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Do you think of yourself as "rich" or "poor?" Why?

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Read Hebrews 13:5. What does it mean to "love money?"

### **DEVOTIONAL 4**

"Whatever you do for the least of these..."

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Who are the groups of people Jesus is especially concerned about in this story?

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Do you know people who deal with some of these same issues, or are part of these groups? If so, what are their first names?

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What would it look like for you, your family, or your church to reach out to the “least of these” in our community?

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### **DEVOTIONAL 5**

“God’s intimate friendship blessed my house.”

Read Job 29:1-17. What are some of the good things Job did in his life?

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Can you think of current examples of people who are doing similar things?

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Pick a phrase from this passage (for example, “I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame”), and write a prayer for yourself and for Good Works that God would show us how to help people in that way.

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## DEVOTIONAL 6

Blessed are the Poor

Read James 2:1-13 Matthew 5:1-7.

What do you think Jesus mean when he says, "blessed are the poor in spirit?"

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What should be our attitude regarding the poor?

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Why do you think God has "chosen the poor" to be rich in faith?

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## DEVOTIONAL 7

Vulnerable People

Read Exodus 22:21-27 and James 1:26.

WHO are the most vulnerable among us?

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List 5 things these groups of people have in common:

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2. 

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3. 

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5. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **DEVOTIONAL 8**

A Fast that Pleases God

Read Isaiah 58 (the whole chapter)

Fasting is an act of worship that is *supposed* to be pleasing to God. What are the actions of God's people that were preventing God from enjoying their worship in this chapter? (verses 1-5)

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In this chapter, how does God tell his people to fast? (verses 6-10)

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Describe some of the amazing things that can happen (in the second half of the chapter) if God's people obey: (verses 8-14)

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### **DEVOTIONAL 9**

Warnings from Jesus

Read Matthew 23 (the whole chapter).

Write 3 practices Jesus warns against from Matthew 23 in your own words:

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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What is a hypocrite? Think of a time you have heard someone described that way.  
Why do you think Jesus makes such a big deal about the Pharisee's hypocrisy?

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### **DEVOTIONAL 10**

God's Plan for Helping His People is YOU!

Read Exodus 3:1 – 4:17.

List 5 of the questions that Moses asks God. What is God's response to each of Moses' questions?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## DEVOTIONAL 11

What's in the Way of the Message?

Read Exodus 6:1-9.

Look up the word "oppression" in the dictionary. Write out a definition.

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In verse 9, why didn't the people listen to Moses?

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What are some reasons people might not be ready to hear a message about God today?

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What are a few things you believe it is important for Christians to *do* in order for people to care about what we say?

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## **DEVOTIONAL 12**

Wisdom from the Proverbs

Proverbs are full of colorful images, metaphors, and good instructions.

Read: Proverbs 31:1-9, 24:11-12, 14:31, 13:23, and Psalm 82:3-4.

Pick one of these passages and draw a picture from one of the images described there.

## **DEVOTIONAL 13**

Harassed and Helpless

Read Matthew 9:35-38.

Who are the "multitudes" Jesus is referring to here?

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Who are some of the sheep without a shepherd you have served through this internship? In what ways would you consider them "harassed?" Be as specific as you are able. Share a story if you can.

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Who or what is "harassing them?" In what ways are they "helpless?"

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**DEVOTIONAL 14**

The Kind of Party Jesus Throws

Read Luke 14:12-14.

What is “the party” in today’s terms?

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Who is unlikely to get invited to parties? Why should Christians be so careful to include & reach out to those people?

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Is Friday Night Life a party like this? What about your church’s times of worship?

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How are you already making room in your life for people who don’t necessarily fit in?  
How can you do better?

## DEVOTIONAL 15

Jesus Eats with "Sinners"

Read Matthew 9:9-13, Romans 12:16.

Question: Where is Jesus and what is he modeling to us in this passage?

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What do you think it means for us to ask Christ to be LORD of our social life?

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What does the phrase, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick," mean?

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## DEVOTIONAL 16

Sharing

Read Acts 2:44 & 4:32

Being a close-knit community seems to have made it possible for the early church to share their possessions! What will it take for us to do this in our community?

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If you have one, share an example of a person or community that you know who take risks and share in BIG ways.

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## DEVOTIONAL 17

## Jesus Heals the Man at the Pool

Read John 5:1-18.

Question: Why does this man say he has not been healed yet? How do you think his life has been impacted by his disability?

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In what ways would this man's life have changed after he was healed?

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Think of a person you have met during your internship who needs healing (physical, social, spiritual, emotional) and write our your prayer for that person.

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## **DEVOTIONAL 18**

Weakness

Read Act 20:35, Romans 14:1, Romans 15:1, I Thessalonians 5:14, I Corinthians 9:22, Psalm 41:1-3, Psalm 82:3-4, Proverbs 14:21.

The word "weak" is used many times to describe people in these passages.

Concentrate on one of these passages and draw a picture about what it means to be "weak" or to help the "weak."

## **DEVOTIONAL 19**

Withholding

Read: Proverbs 3:27-28, 10:15, 28:5-6.

Question: In what ways have we all been guilty of "withholding good"?

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What do we have to lose when we help others? What do we have to gain by sharing?

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Is it always right to help someone in need? How do you decide when to help or not?

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Are there limitations that you have learned about regarding who Good Works is able to help?

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## **DEVOTIONAL 20**

Reflect!

Write *at least* one thing you have learned in the following areas:

1. About God's love for the poor:

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2. About how to love your neighbors:

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3. About the Bible:

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#### 4. About yourself:

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*You are encouraged to continue this devotion past the end of your internship! Share with your friends, parents, and anyone who will listen what God has put in your heart through scripture!*

**Read:** Luke 10:25-37.

Question: Who is *your* neighbor? In what ways can you identify with the man beaten up on the side of the road? Have you ever been abused or abandoned in this way? Can you identify with the Priest or Levite? If so, how?

**Read:** Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:32-36.

Question: What kind of “perfection” is God looking for in us? Do you have enemies? If so, why do you think you have enemies? Are they people who don’t like you because of your bad behavior or because you live out your convictions? What is Jesus saying about the kingdom here? List one observation you have.

**Read:** Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, John 12:1-8, Deuteronomy 15:1-11.

Question: Does the Deuteronomy passage change the meaning of the gospel passage for you? What can we learn about God’s heart for the poor from these passages?

**Read:** Luke 4:23-28

Why did Jesus give these examples/stories after he declared his mission? Why do you think the people tried to throw him off the cliff?

**Read:** Amos 5:11-14.

Question: Can we become too prosperous? What does that look like? What happens to us when we have too much? (See Deuteronomy 8:6-20)

**Read:** Matthew 5:16, Acts 10:38, Psalm 34:14, Psalm 37:3, Luke 6:27, I Timothy 6:18, Titus 3:1, 8 & 14, Eph. 2:10. Doing good works is the door through which we can understand justice.



Question: What are the “good works” God has called you to do? List five examples from your own life of good works you have done. Remember: Good Works are the “outward expression” of the inward change!

**Read:** Luke 6:25, Galatians 2:10, James 2:5.

Question: What is the common theme in these verses? List three specific observations you gained from these scriptures.

**Read:** Psalm 41:1-3.

Question: Why does the Psalmist say that there is a blessing upon those who care for the needy?

Good Works, Inc.

P.O. Box 4

Athens, Ohio 45701

740.594.3339

[email@good-works.net](mailto:email@good-works.net)

[www.good-works.net](http://www.good-works.net)