

**WARM UP** | It is appropriate that as I write this I am in Kenya, close to the largest slum in the nation, with over 1 million people. I know I can't help all of them, but I can touch some of them. By working with people here we can make a difference in the lives of those we can. The problem always looks big but we can change things one person at a time.



**READ** | Psalm 41:1-3; Matthew 25:31-46

**BACKGROUND** |

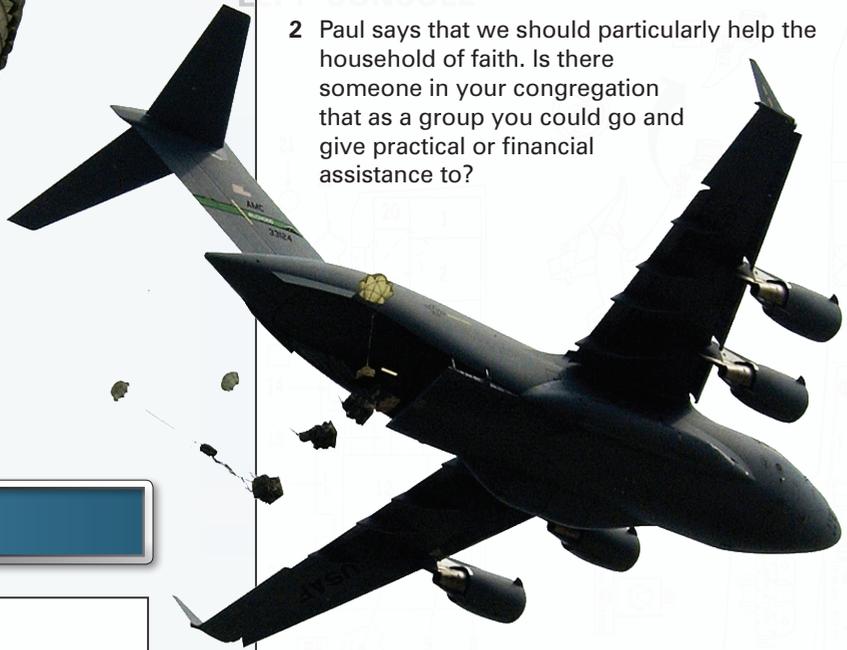
God chose a widow woman who was preparing her last meal to supply food for His prophet. A poor person with nothing was the source for the man of God in a season of drought and starvation. This may not be the way we would do things, but this woman obeyed God and gave from her small amount and as a result lacked nothing. In fact instead of dying she was sustained, along with the prophet.

The Bible has a lot to say about helping the poor and Jesus says that when we help the poor we are doing it to Him and we will reap a reward for it. When we don't He says that we are neglecting Him!

You may not have a lot, but we can all do something!

**QUESTIONS** |

- 1 A woman came to Jesus and gave her expensive perfume to anoint Him and it says, "she did what she could". Discuss what you could do for the poor, asking God to direct you. (Has your group considered the "Men's Team Ministry to Widows & Solos"?)



- 2 Paul says that we should particularly help the household of faith. Is there someone in your congregation that as a group you could go and give practical or financial assistance to?

**CONSIDER THIS** |

*Years ago in a poor church I read this verse, Proverbs 21:13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.*

*A pastor asked me what that meant. He really put me on the spot as there were so many poor around us. The Holy Spirit gave me this: the poor to you are the ones I put in your path. So keep your eyes open.*

**MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER** |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?



**WRAP UP** |

It is easy to find excuses, but I know the blessing when you decide, like I did, to go without some coffees and put that towards helping someone less well off. Discuss what you might go without for a period in order to help someone.

**IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER** |