

Soft Hearts and Open Hands

Deuteronomy 15

Theme: God calls us, because of His grace to us in Christ, to have soft hearts and open hands to the poor and disadvantaged.

1) The Sabbath Year Release

- A) The _____ and the _____ (vv.4&11)
- B) Jesus the _____ Release (Luke 4:18-19)

2) Attitudes Toward the Poor (v.7-11)

Give with soft hearts and open hands

- A) Avoid a _____ Mind
- B) Avoid a _____ eye
- C) Avoid _____

3) Freedom for the debt-slave (vv.12-18)

Answers: Real, Ideal, REAL, twisted, grudging, tightfistedness

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Small Group Questions

1. In your own words, explain what the “release” in vv1&2 was about. How many times does the word appear in these two verses?
2. Discuss as a group the seeming contradiction in vv.4&11. AS you discuss, consider these two questions for discussion:
 - a. What is the condition put on the elimination of poverty in v.5?
 - b. What is the reality that stands in the way of eliminating poverty suggested by v.9? What would be the temptation of a creditor according to v.9?
3. Read Luke 4:16-21. How does Jesus become the fulfillment of the release described in Deut. 15?
4. What was to motivate slave holders to be gracious in the release of debt-slaves? See v.15. How should this same motivation apply to how we treat the disadvantaged and needy?
5. What are some excuses we often make for not helping the disadvantaged?
6. Does v.11 suggest we should judge whether or not people deserve help?
7. How does the overall emphasis of the text affirm having soft hearts and open hands in ministering to the disadvantaged? See 1Tim.6:17-19

RESPOND

In a world of poverty and need where we wrestle with what should be and what actually is, how can we make a difference as believers? Where does the text suggest we start? See Gal. 6:9-10; 1Jn.3:17-18

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IDOP

6:30PM

AT GREENWOOD
TONIGHT

JOIN US IN
PRAYER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

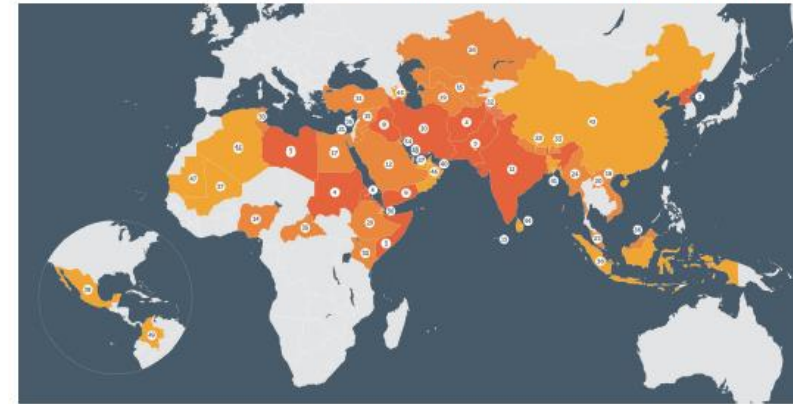
THRIVING IN
PERSECUTION

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10

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2018 World Watch List Top 50 Countries for Persecution of Christians



Extreme levels of persecution

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Afghanistan
- 3 Somalia
- 4 Sudan
- 5 Pakistan
- 6 Eritrea
- 7 Libya
- 8 Iraq
- 9 Yemen
- 10 Iran
- 11 India

Very high levels of persecution

- 12 Saudi Arabia
- 13 Maldives
- 14 Nigeria
- 15 Syria
- 16 Uzbekistan
- 17 Egypt
- 18 Vietnam
- 19 Turkmenistan
- 20 Laos
- 21 Jordan
- 22 Tajikistan
- 23 Malaysia
- 24 Myanmar
- 25 Nepal
- 26 Brunei
- 27 Qatar
- 28 Kazakhstan
- 29 Ethiopia
- 30 Tunisia
- 31 Turkey
- 32 Kenya
- 33 Bhutan
- 34 Kuwait
- 35 CAR

High levels of persecution

- 36 Palestinian Territories
- 37 Mali
- 38 Indonesia
- 39 Mexico
- 40 UAE
- 41 Bangladesh
- 42 Algeria
- 43 China
- 44 Sri Lanka
- 45 Azerbaijan
- 46 Oman
- 47 Mauritania
- 48 Bahrain
- 49 Colombia
- 50 Djibouti

Contact us for a free copy of the complete 2018 World Watch List booklet.
idop@odcan.org
(905) 636-0944

PAKISTAN

Leader Prime Minister Shaid Khaqan Abbasi
Population 197 million
Christians 3.9 million
Main Religion Islam



NIGERIA

Leader President Muhammadu Buhari
Population 192 million
Christians 89 million
Main Religion Islam/Christianity

