

Acts Series

Lesson #52

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

“Usury, the Poor, the Rights of Employers”  
Acts 4:32–5:16



# Economic Parameters



**Lev. 19:15, “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness [בְּצֶדֶק *betzedek*] you shall judge your neighbor.”**

**Deut. 24:14, “You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates.”**

**Ex. 22:25, “If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest.”**

**נִשְׁכָּךְ (*neshek*) “to bite”  
*interest, usury.***

**usury – (OED) the practice of lending money at unreasonably high rates of interest.**

**Lev. 25:35, “If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.**

**Lev. 25:36, “Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you.**

**Lev. 25:37, “You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit.**

**Lev. 25:38, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.”**

**Prov. 28:8, “One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion [usury and (excessive) interest],**

**Gathers it for him who will pity the poor.”**

**Prov. 28:3, “A poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no food.”**

**Prov. 28:8, “One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion [usury and (excessive) interest],**

**gathers it for him who will pity the poor.”**

**Ezek. 18:17, “Who has withdrawn his hand from the poor and not received usury or increase, but has executed My judgments and walked in My statutes—he shall not die for the iniquity of his father; he shall surely live!”**

**Prov. 10:4, “He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”**

**Prov. 24:30, “I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;**

**Prov. 24:31, “And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.**

**Prov. 24:32, “When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:**

**Prov. 24:33, “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest;**

**Prov. 24:34, “So shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.”**

**Prov. 21:17, “He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.”**

**Prov. 20:13, “Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.”**

**Prov. 14:21, “He who despises his neighbor sins;  
but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.”**

**Prov. 14:31, “He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.”**

**Prov. 17:5, “He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.”**

**Prov. 19:17, “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.”**

**Prov. 21:13, “Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.”**

**Prov. 28:27, “He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.”**

**Isa. 3:14, “The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes: “For you have eaten up the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in your houses.**

**Isa. 3:15, “ ‘What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the faces of the poor?’ says the Lord GOD of hosts.”**

**Ex. 22:22, “You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child.”**

**Deut. 10:18, “He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.”**

**Deut. 24:17, “You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow’s garment as a pledge.”**

**Ex. 23:3, “You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.”**

**Ex. 30:15, “The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves.”**

**James 2:6, “But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?”**