



SERIES NINE: DISCIPLESHIP AND CIVIC DUTY

SESSION 3: *ECONOMIC STIMULUS: WORKING THE SYSTEM*

FOR CHRISTIAN CAUSES

The Seed

Acts 25: 11 – 12

“If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!” After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”

Words to Know

- **Assistance:** *aid or help*
- **Faith-based Initiative:** *a program designed to expand the capacity of religious and community organizations to provide federally funded social services in order to help others.*
- **Partnership:** *an agreement between two or more parties to work toward a common goal.
(companionship, brotherhood, joint interest)*
- **Proselytize:** *evangelize (to encourage someone to convert to a faith.*
- **Subsidy:** *money granted from a government to a private enterprise for the public good. (help, support, aid, reinforcement)*



Harvesting time
Part 3

We have given attention to federal government as a source of funding for Christian human and social services. However, there are additional sources available to assist churches with grant writing and identifying new sources of revenue. Funds are available to be used for child-care programs, abstinence education, child welfare, and temporary assistance for person in need. In addition, there are programs designed to reduce or eliminate homelessness, promote healthy marriages, and minister to the children of incarcerated parents. Other funds may be available, if the request for funding meets certain criteria.

As with any potential funding source, familiarize yourself with grant requirements and restrictions before applying or accepting funds. Be mindful of anything that would require a compromise of doctrine and principles. Keep in mind that this information is provided to increase awareness of an is not an endorsement of potential funding sources.

What should you do? Remember what Nehemiah did before approaching the king, and what Jesus is advocating in the passage given at the beginning of this section:

- Pray before entering in any alliance or partnership
- Seek God's wisdom in matters concerning all community initiatives.

Christ was compassionate and purposeful about meeting the needs of others. Our willingness to provide for those needs is evidence of true righteousness. In order to meet the challenges, Christians must be informed, willing, and creative. Whether or not you agree with the concept of faith-based initiatives, other sources of funding are available as a means of serving Christ by serving the overlooked and ignored.

Proverbs 14:21 Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor. Proverbs 14:31 Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.



Digging Deeper

Search the websites in the “Supplemental Section” and visit your local library to get additional information. The Health and Human Services and National Institutes of Health sites also have detailed information. Scripture memorization continues to be important. Choose the SEED verses or another passage of Scripture from this session to memorize. Finally, ask the Lord to show you what you can do to help relieve suffering.

Supplemental Section

Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther and Work

Calling and the Purpose - Nehemiah

Effective Christian Leadership: Ezra's Model of Team Leadership



Closing Prayer

Father, we ask You to fill us with the knowledge of Your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that we may live lives worthy of You – so that we may please You in every way. May we never cease to bear fruit in every good work as we grow in our knowledge of You. Strengthen us with all power according to Your glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience for the work You call us to. Lead us to the proper funding sources – and may we find favor there, as Nehemiah and Ezra did. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen