

# EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE DEVOTIONAL 2



Read Job 29:12-16 (NIV)

*Because I rescued the poor who cried for help,  
and the fatherless who had none to assist them.  
The man who was dying blessed me;  
I made the widow's heart sing.  
I put on righteousness as my clothing;  
justice was my robe and my turban.  
I was eyes to the blind  
and feet to the lame.  
I was a father to the needy;  
I took up the case of the stranger.*

Job was the very definition of a righteous man. He commanded respect from the entire community, not just because of his wealth and power, but because he helped the powerless and needy.

Job's treatment of others is detailed in this passage. He was just and kind to the poor, orphans and widows, the disabled, strangers and victims. He was known for imitating God's truth, justice and love, and for trusting in His mercy.

In your own life, consider how you too might imitate God by extending Christlike love to those in need. In what way does trusting in God's mercy enable you to do that?

Continue by reading Job 31:16-23:

*If I have denied the desires of the poor  
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,  
if I have kept my bread to myself,  
not sharing it with the fatherless —  
but from my youth I reared him as a father would,  
and from my birth I guided the widow —  
if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,  
or the needy without garments,  
and their hearts did not bless me  
for warming them with the fleece from my sheep,*

*if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,  
knowing that I had influence in court,  
then let my arm fall from the shoulder,  
let it be broken off at the joint.  
For I dreaded destruction from God,  
and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things.*

Here Job defends himself against false accusations made by Eliaphaz (Job 22:7-9). Job holds himself up as a model of a righteous man, one who demonstrates concern for the poor and oppressed. He describes how he shared food with orphans and even took them into his home. He encouraged and counseled widows and gave clothes to those who lacked them. Job was just and charitable toward the needy because he stood in awe of the Lord.

In Old Testament days, a person's heart was made evident through his generous actions toward the powerless in society. While Christians today operate under grace through Jesus' sacrifice, our love for others still provides the watching world with evidence of a life-changing relationship with the Lord.

### **Questions for Thought or Discussion**

1. *What evidence would others see in your own life of your devotion to God as it relates to helping others?*
2. *What changes do you want to make, or goals do you want to set?*