



SAINT TIMOTHY'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## LENTEN SERIES 2006 A COVENANTAL RESPONSE TO POVERTY

### WEEK 2 – CAUSES OF POVERTY

#### **Opening Prayer:**

BCP: #21 on page 209

All Recite:

*“O God, you desire that all people should eat and be satisfied. May we who follow Jesus today be renewed in our determination to eliminate poverty and hunger in your world. Amen”*

#### **Bible Study:**

- *Isaiah 1:10-17, 10:1-4 – Prophets call it as they see it*  
What accusations does Isaiah bring before God’s people? What is God weary of? What does God delight in? What do modern day prophets say about the way we treat the poor?
- *Matthew 23:23-24- Jesus calls it as he sees it*  
What are the weightier matters? How have the Pharisees perverted the law? What matters in our lives seem weightier than justice?
- *Mark 7:6- 13 – The root of injustice*  
What does Jesus name as the cause of injustice and oppression? What can happen when we align our hearts and purpose with God’s heart and purpose? Where do we begin?

#### **Extreme Poverty:**

- Living on the edge: Statistics from Jeffrey Sachs
- Demographics of extreme poverty: Linked with malaria and AIDS epidemics
- Income trends in sub-Saharan Africa compared to Asia
- Causes of extreme poverty

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- How/why Americans can help: A pragmatic approach

### **Millennium Goals**

- The importance of advocacy

### **Table Discussion Questions:**

- How much thought/concern/time have I given to the problem of international poverty?
- Jesus connects the dots between perversion of justice and being out of touch with God's purposes? Is this still true today?
- How have I justified my abuse/neglect of the poor?
- What have I learned tonight that surprised me?
- How can I live my life this week in a manner that is more aligned with God's purposes?

### **Closing Prayer:**

Recite the Baptismal Covenant – BCP page 304.

### **Take Home Challenges:**

- Begin reading one of the following books:

Mountains Beyond Mountains, by Tracy Kidder

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations...One School at a Time, by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin

The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for our Time, by Jeffrey Sachs

God's Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get it: A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America, by Jim Wallis

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity, by Ronald J. Sider

- Check out these websites:

<http://maps.maplecroft.com/pandemic>

<http://www.myfootprint.org/>

<http://www.wclp.org/>