

## CHARITY!

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 KJV

INTRODUCTION: The word “charity” became most famous in the English language by its use in the King James Version of the Bible, especially in Paul’s chapter on the love of God in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 in the King James Version of the Bible. But as modern translations came out the word “charity” was replaced by the word “love.” Charity is best used not to describe a charitable organization as it is to describe an action—a charitable act or gesture, motivated by genuine affection and caring. Since 1950 the Missionaries of Charity under the direction of Mother Theresa have been working in Calcutta, India to “extend charity to the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone.” John 3:16-21.

#### I. JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST!

Luke 19:1-10: Truly, God charity—His “agape” love, the love of God was the reason for that first Christmas! Jesus mother, Mary needed charity on that first Christmas eve: Luke 2:6-7. The inn keeper showed charity to Mary and Joseph. The stable wasn’t much, but it was dry, had straw and a manger. It wasn’t much but the inn keeper did what he could to help a young couple in need.

#### II. JESUS STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN!

Jesus story of the “good Samaritan” is as good a human illustration of charity as we will ever find! Luke 10:25-37. Before the Samaritan encountered the man who had been attacked, robbed, and left for dead, two others had passed by who had good reason to help their Jewish brother, but did not.

#### III. YOUR STORE FOR JESUS GLORY!

All around us as we approach the Christmas season this year there will be those less fortunate than we are. We can pass them by on the other side of the road, or we can cross over and do what we can to make their life, and their Christmas more comfortable. Jesus gave us a wonderful example of a woman meeting His need: Mark 14:3-9. Giving to charities is commendable—there are many that do good works. But don’t pass up the opportunity to personally “be charitable” to others. The apostle Paul plead with the pastors of his day to remember our Lord’s words about the charity of our God: Acts 20:28-35. Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. I cannot encourage you too strongly to set aside part of what you are giving to the church or other charitable organizations and keep it in store for when the Lord will move your heart to be a “good Samaritan with someone He sends your way. Extending a helping hand to those in need—being charitable—is one of the ways our Lord longs to bless others through you! Proverbs 19:17.