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The 3 immediate benefits of taking care of the poor are,

- 1) God will promote our ministry!
- 2) Word will hit the streets that our ministry is the place to get help!
- 3) God will begin to send workers and resources to meet needs.

God's priority is to take care of the poor. God is interested in the poor because God doesn't make mistakes and the poor are also God's children. When others see trash, God sees treasure. Our future leaders, givers, and volunteers are waiting to be rescued. (Matthew 5:3) says "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." When we take care of the poor we are taking care of Jesus. A ministry that does not take care of the poor is not ministering to Jesus and will not see growth. A ministry that takes care of the poor will always have favor with God.

Before Christ I would not help the poor that much. I always had a heart for the poor but I never went out of my way to serve or give. Now that I serve the Lord I try to help and make time to serve at our downtown campus. When I see a homeless person at the store or Gas Station I make it a point to give money for food or buy them something to eat. Now that I think about it I can do more for them by asking them if they need prayer. This will be a challenge for me but imagine the challenges that they are facing. The other day me and my nephew were on our way to a wedding and we saw a homeless man that waved us down. He asked me "do you go to church?" He said "I don't want any money, all I want is prayer." That was all God because how did this man know that we serve the Lord? We prayed for him and gave him a few dollars and I gave him my phone number to invite him to church and possibly get him in the men's home. I have not received a call yet but I felt like that was all I could do at the time.