

Lesson 6 – Sunday: The Majestic Warrior

1. MEMORY TEXT: **Psalm 12:5** - *“For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now I will arise,’ says the LORD; ‘I will set him in the safety for which he yearns’”*
 - **Psalm 12** Starts with “Help”
 - Hb. “yasa” - liberate / save / to save in battle
2. Focus is NOT on ME, but “for the oppression of the poor” - Hb. “shode” – devastation, destruction, ruin
 - a. About 50 million people in modern slavery - Average cost \$90 - \$100
 - 20 million of those in debt bondage
 - b. 160 million children in child labor
 - In the world’s poorest countries, 1 in 5 children in child labor: bricks, gold, sugarcane, coffee, cocoa, cotton, textiles, manufacturing, agriculture, mining
 - c. 9.2 % (720 million) live in poverty – on less than \$2.15/day
 - Working for next to nothing to fill the most undesirable positions in a supply chain we benefit from.
 - d. God takes special interest in the oppressed: WIDOWS / ORPHANS / FOREIGNERS / POOR
 - **Exodus 22:22-25** – *“You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.*
3. Israel knew what oppression was like – giving or receiving
 - a. 7th-Century prophets’ picture of oppression IN Israel
 - b. **Micah 3:9-10** – *Now hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, ¹⁰ who build up Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with iniquity:
 - **Isaiah 5:8** – *“Woe to those who join house to house; they add field to field, till there is no place where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land!”**
 - c. **6:1** – *Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, and trust in Mount Samaria,*
 - **Amos 4:1** – *Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, “Bring wine, let us drink!”*
 - d. **Amos 8:5-6** – *WANTING THE SABBATH TO END SOON ... “Making the ephah small and the shekel large, falsifying the scales by deceit, ⁶ that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—”
 - **Amos 5:11** – *Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him, though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them;*
 - **Isaiah 3:14-15** – *“The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes: “For you have eaten up the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in your houses. ¹⁵ What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the faces of the poor?” says the Lord God of hosts.”**
 - e. **Amos 2:7-8** – *“A man and his father go in to the same girl, to defile My holy name. ⁸ They lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge,*
4. The problems associated with oppression need serious study and evaluation in our world today, and we need to participate in relieving the suffering of the oppressed.
 - a. We can NOT turn away from our responsibility with the excuse: GOD will help!
 - b. This lesson begins with focusing on God as the solution
 - c. **Psalm 18:4-19** – A firsthand witness statement of God as the Majestic Warrior, Defender, and Rescuer
5. **Daniel 12:1** - *“At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.”*