**Scripture Litany (using The Inclusive Bible Translation)**

If Israelites who are your relatives become impoverished so that they cannot support themselves in the community, they must be given assistance as if they were aliens or strangers, and they will live with you. You must not charge interest on a loan, either by demanding it in advance or otherwise by adding it to the principal. Revere God, and let your neighbour live with you. (Leviticus 25: 35-36)

If there is anyone among you who is in need in any of the towns in the land that YHWH, your God is giving you, you must not be harsh or stingy toward your sisters and brothers who are in need. You must be generous, and ready to lend to those who need help of any kind. (Deuteronomy 15: 7-8)

Defend the lowly and the orphaned; render justice to the oppressed and the destitute! (Psalm 82:3)

Those who are kind to the poor are making loans to God, and God will repay them for their goodness. (Proverbs 19: 17)

Those who refuse to hear the plea of the oppressed will themselves cry out and be ignored. (Proverbs 21: 13)

On the contrary!

This is the sort of fast that pleases me:

remove the chains of injustice!

Undo the ropes of the yoke!

Let those who are oppressed go free,

and break every yoke you encounter!

Share your bread with those who are hungry,

and shelter homeless poor people!

Clothe those who are naked,

and don’t hide form the needs of your own flesh and blood!

Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn -

and your healing will break forth like lightning!

Your integrity will go before you,

and the glory of God will be your rearguard.

(Isaiah 58: 6-8)

The ruler will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then these just will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did if for me.’ (Matthew 25: 34-40)

Jesus replied, “There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side. Likewise, there was a Levite who came the same way; this one too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, ‘Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I’ll repay you on the way back.’

“Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbour to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?” The answer came, “The one who showed compassion.” Jesus replied, ‘Then go and do the same.” (Luke 10: 30-37)

Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbours. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:12-14)

Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatian 6:2)

Keep doing good works and sharing your resources. These are the sacrifices that please God. (Hebrews 13:16)

My sisters and brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save. If any are in need of clothes and have no food to live on, and one of you says to them, “Goodbye and good luck. Stay warm and well-fed,” without giving them the bare necessities of life, then what good is this? So it is with faith. If good deeds don’t go with it, faith is dead. (James 2: 14-17)

If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbours in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you? (1 John 3: 17)