

MINISTRIES OF MERCY

The Widows

Matthew 25:40

Widows in the Bible

- A. The term “widow” occurs ____ times in the Bible.
1. About 1/3 of these are found in the New Testament and speaks to the condition of a woman whose husband has _____.
 - a. A very persistent widow was the subject of one of Christ’s _____ (Lu. 18:1-8).
 - b. Specific guidelines were given pertaining to the church’s _____ of widows (Ac. 6:1-6; 1 Ti. 5:3-16).
 2. The majority of the references to widows are found in the Old Testament.
 - * The Hebrew word *al-maw-naw'* occurs 57x. The root of this word means to be _____.

B. Widows in the Bible include people like:

God’s care for widows described

- A. God _____ widows against those who would take _____ of them (De. 10:18; Mal. 3:5; Ps. 68:5).
- B. God shows _____ (mercy) on them (Ps. 146:9; Pr. 15:25; Je. 49:11).
- C. God gives special recognition to their _____ to His _____ (Lu. 2:36-37; 21:1-4).

Question: *How does God execute His care for widows as described in Scripture?*

God’s care for widows is delegated to His people.

- A. God’s people were to _____ widows:
 1. by their _____ (De 14:28-29; 26:12-15)
 2. by their _____ (De. 24:19-21)
- B. God’s people were to _____ them (Is. 1:17).
- C. God’s people are to look out for their general _____ (Ja. 1:27; Ac. 6:1-6; 1 Ti. 5:3-16).
 - * “Visit” means to look after, inspect, or examine one’s well-being or condition.

God’s care for widows was demonstrated through firm warnings to His people.

- A. They were not to _____ or add to widows’ difficulties in life (Ex. 22:22-24)

- B. They were not to take _____ of widows' plight (Zec. 7:10; Mt. 23:14).
- C. They were not to deal with them _____ (De. 24:17; 27:19).
- D. They were not to _____ them (Je. 22:3).

How can you and I have a ministry of mercy to widows?

- A. _____ for them.
- B. Become aware of their _____ (Ja. 1:27).
- C. Publicly promote their proper _____.
- D. _____ for them.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____ and _____ maintenance
 - 3. _____ (in your _____ or theirs)
 - 4. _____
 - 5. _____
- E. _____ for them (Ac. 6:1-6; 1 Ti. 5:3-16).
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____