TEXT: (Proverbs 28:3, CEV)

 $^{\rm 3}$ When someone poor takes over and mistreats the poor, it's like a heavy rain destroying the crops.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Power Corrupts
 - 1. "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, NIV).
- B. The Good Samaritan—Love in Action
 - 1. "On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.' But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (Luke 10:25-29, NIV)

 "The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans)" (John 4:9, NIV).

I. A WOUNDED MAN

- 1. "In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead" (Luke 10:30, NIV).
- A. The Road from Jerusalem to Jericho
 - 1. "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12, NIV).
 - 2. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds" (James 1:2-3, NIV).
- B. The Robbers
 - 1. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..." (John 10:10, NIV).
 - 2. "Samuel said, 'Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel" (I Samuel 15:17, NIV).

II. LOST ALL COMPASSION

A. The Priest

- 1. "A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side" (Luke 10:31, NIV).
- 2. "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (I John 3:17-18, NIV).

- 3. "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former" (Matthew 23:23, NIV).
- 4. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7, NIV).
- B. A Levite (A Temple Assistant)
 - 1. "So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side" (Luke 10:32, NIV).
 - 2. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:13-14, NIV).
- III. A FRIEND IN TIME OF NEED
 - 1. "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him" (Luke 10:33, NIV).
 - 2. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:12-13, NIV).
 - A. Moved with Compassion
 - 1. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36, NIV).
 - 2. "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14, NIV).
 - 3. "Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him" (Matthew 20:34, NIV).
 - B. Command to His Disciples
 - 1. "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8, NIV).
 - 2. "He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have' (Luke 10:34-35, NIV).
 - 3. "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34, KJV).
 - C. Thoughts from the Story
 - 1. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5, NIV).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. "Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness" (Hebrews 5:1-2, NIV).
- 2. "When someone poor takes over and mistreats the poor, it's like a heavy rain destroying the crops" (Proverbs 28:3, CEV).