The Disciple of Christ and the Poor
(Verses from the NIV)

OT:34
'ebyown --
1)   in want, needy, chiefly poor, a needy person
2)   subject to oppression and abuse
3)   needing help, deliverance from trouble, especially as delivered by God
4)   a general reference to the lowest class (of people)
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NT:4434
ptoochos, ptoochee, ptoochon

1. in classical Greek from Homer (900 B.C.?) down, reduced to beggary, begging, mendicant, asking alms: Luke 14:13,21
2. poor, needy Matt 19:21
3. universally, lacking in anything, with a dative of the respect:
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<u>Poverty</u> is generally considered a lack of: food, clean water, shelter, medical treatment, education, vocational opportunities. Poverty is generally caused by war, natural disasters, economic down turns, educational/intellectual deficiencies, or social oppression.

Old Testament

Exodus 23:6
6 "Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits.

Leviticus 19:10
10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 15:4
4 However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you,

Deuteronomy 15:11
11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Deuteronomy 24:12
12 If the man is poor, do not go to sleep with his pledge in your possession.

Proverbs 14:31
31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,
but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Proverbs 19:17
17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 28:27
27 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing,
but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

New Testament

Matt 19:21
21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Matthew 26:11
11 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

Luke 6:20
20 Looking at his disciples, he said:
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Acts 24:17
17 "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.

Romans 15:26
26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

Galatians 2:10
10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

James 2:5
5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

How can the follower of Christ help the poor?

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'   Matt. 25:34-40