

## Foundational Scripture for Disability Ministry

Mary Tutterow and her husband, Winn, founded and ran [www.HealingFarms.com](http://www.HealingFarms.com), were one of the five founding families of Seacoast Churches Won by One Ministry, planted the Luke 14 Banquet at Seacoast nearly 15 years ago, Now Mary writes and teacher caregivers how to love and serve with peace and compassion – [www.TheHeartoftheCaregiver.com](http://www.TheHeartoftheCaregiver.com) . She also consults with churches on laying a firm foundation for special needs ministry and Direct-to-Family Ministry. She can be reached at [theheartofthecaregiver@gmail.com](mailto:theheartofthecaregiver@gmail.com).

***How does God view people who are developmentally challenged – people whom the world considers weak, slow, poor, dispensable, dumb, crippled, ugly, undesirable?***

**2 Corinthians 4:7 NLT** *“But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and in not our own.”*

***God says they are indispensable, chosen, rich, great, first, honored, blessed – He tends to them.***

**Matthew 5:5** *God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole earth will belong to them.*

**Psalm 71:20-21, NLT** *You have allowed me to suffer much hardship, but you will restore me to life again and lift me up from the depths of the earth. You will restore me to even greater honor and comfort me once again.*

**In II Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul says something amazing:** “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**1 Corinthians 12** <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are **indispensable**, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and

has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

**Isaiah 40: 29** He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

**1 Corinthians 1:**<sup>27</sup>But God **chose** the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

**James 1:9** The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

**Psalm 22:24, NIV** For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help

#### **Psalm 147**

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

#### **James 2**

<sup>5</sup>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?

#### **Luke 7**

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is **greater** than he."

#### **Luke 6**

<sup>20</sup>Looking at his disciples, he said:

"**Blessed** are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>Blessed are you when men hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

### **Matthew 19**

<sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be **first**.

### **1 Samuel 16**

<sup>7</sup> ...The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

**Psalm 138:6** Though the Lord is on high, he looks at the lowly.

**1 Peter 4:1** Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

### **Isaiah 49**

<sup>13</sup> Shout for joy, O heavens;  
rejoice, O earth;  
burst into song, O mountains!  
For the LORD comforts his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

***Are people who appear to be weak and different cursed, sinners, useless mistakes?***

### **John 9**

<sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

### **Isaiah 48:10**

See, I have refined you, though not as silver;  
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.  
For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.

### **Genesis 1**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..."

### **Psalm 139**

<sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.  
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

<sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

### **Jeremiah 29**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### **Judges 6**

<sup>15</sup> "But Lord, [1] " Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

***What are we, The Body of Christ, meant to do for people with disabilities the poor, the weak, the rejected?***

**James 5:11** *We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. Job is an example of a man who endured patiently. From his experience we see how the Lord's plan finally ended in good, for he is full of tenderness and mercy.*

**Galatians 6** <sup>2</sup>Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

**Psalm 82:3-4** Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;  
maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

4 Rescue the weak and needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

**Romans 15** <sup>1</sup>We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

### **Psalm 41**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is he who has regard for the weak;  
the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.

### **Luke 14**

<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

### **Acts 20**

<sup>35</sup>In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

### **Matthew 25**

<sup>40</sup>"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.'