

Tuesday 26th January 2021

Psalm 41:1 *“Blessed is he who has regard for the weak;
The Lord delivers him in times of troubles.”*

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

Leviticus 25:35 *“If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so that he can continue to live among you”*

‘Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief,’ Most of us will remember using these words as children to count cherry stones or determine who would be ‘It’ in a game of tag. Although the common wording was published in 1883 there are much earlier versions from the 15th century. Whilst the rhyme doesn’t appear to have arisen from any desire to distinguish between rich and poor the comparisons are there to be made.

The psalmist and proverb writers make plain that in God’s mind all should be treated alike with compassion, understanding and support. Those of us who don’t are flying in the face of God’s Word. At this time of communal stress, and for many, financial hardship let us remember to act in faith and with grace.