You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns. You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt.

Deuteronomy 24:14-5

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 126:5-6

The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

Proverbs 13:23

You shall not oppress the resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 23:9

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages.

Jeremiah 22:13

The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress.

Ezekiel 22:29

The word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying: Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

Zechariah 7:8-10

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against . . . those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3:5

“Well you can see that they are applying the poison or it smells like it afterward when you’re entering the field. It smells like poison and so you realize what it is. But no, since the boss speaks English and you speak Spanish, you don’t understand each other much.”

North Carolina Farmworker
New Testament

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Matthew 25:35

‘Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

Luke 10:36-37

Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

Romans 4:4

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:13

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20

For the scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain”, and, “The laborer deserves to be paid.”

1 Timothy 5:18

Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

James 5:4

Get Involved & Learn More!

National Farm Worker Ministry: www.nfwm.org
NC Council of Churches: www.nccouncilofchurches.org
NC Farmworker Institute: www.ncfarmworkers.org
Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF): www.saf-unite.org

Note: The word “stranger” can alternatively be translated as “alien” or “immigrant.”

Published by the National Farm Worker Ministry, North Carolina Council of Churches, and Student Action with Farmworkers, with generous support by The Duke Endowment, 2012.