



MATTHEW 25

*“I was hungry...I was thirsty...I was a stranger...**I needed clothes...**
I was sick...I was in prison, and you came. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of
the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*
(Matthew 25 NRSV)

For I was naked and you clothed me...

FACTS

- Nearly 1/2 of the world's population (more than 3 billion people) live on less than \$2.50/day. (UNICEF)
- Prior to the pandemic in 2019 the official poverty rate in the U.S. was 10.5%. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- The poverty rate in Franklin County, Ohio is 16.3% according to Data USA.
- An Ohio family of 4 with a gross annual income of less than \$52,200 may qualify for low-income status. (Ohio Department of Education)
- The average family spends \$1,800 per year on clothing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics includes financially independent people and singles living together sharing expenses as a family. †
- According to Houselogic's website a master walk in closet for 2 users should be a minimum of 7 by 10 feet. (How many closets does your home have?)

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AROUND THE TABLE

Reflect on the quote attributed to Mark Twain, "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence in society."

How much has your family spent on clothing in the last month?

Where do you usually shop for clothing?

Have you ever worked a job or attending a school that had a 'dress code?' What were the dress requirements?

† <https://www.creditdonkey.com/average-cost-clothing-per-month.html>

WAYS TO PRAY

Thank God that you have money to buy clothes, food, and other things you need and want.

Pray that families who don't have everything they need.

Pray that God will show you how to help those who are in need.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Donate gently used clothing to a free store.
<https://www.4allpeople.org/FreeStore>
2. Donate gently used or new children's coats to the Westside Urban Ministry coat drive.
3. When safety protocols allow, visit a free store.
4. Re-read Matthew 25: 31-40. How does this passage connect for you with the issue of poverty? Does it change how you view the facts above, your prayers, or actions? If so, how?

Please interact with the links below to engage more with the topics of poverty and clothing as well as learn more about resources dedicated to helping

Local Information

Overbrook has supported the Westside Urban Ministry coat drive for the last several years. Contact Connie Jump for more information. <https://psvonline.org/about-us/ministry-associations/pwum/>

What is a free store? <https://www.greenamerica.org/green-living/store-where-everything-free>

Websites for two free stores that operates in Columbus <https://westsidefreestore.org>
<https://www.4allpeople.org/FreeStore>

National Information

Academic research on consumption and the consumer society
https://www.bu.edu/eci/files/2019/10/Consumption_and_Consumer_Society.pdf

National Church Information

PCUSA eradicating system poverty
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/poverty/>