**Deuteronomy 15:10-11 (NIRV)**

**10**So give freely to needy people. Let your heart be tender toward them. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all your work. He will bless you in everything you do. **11**There will always be poor people in the land. So, I’m commanding you to give freely to those who are poor and needy in your land. Open your hands to them.

**John 12:1-11 (NIRV)**

**1**It was six days before the Passover Feast. Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived. Lazarus was the one Jesus had raised from the dead. **2**A dinner was given at Bethany to honor Jesus. Martha served the food. Lazarus was among the people at the table with Jesus. **3**Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard. It was an expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the sweet smell of the perfume.

**4**But Judas Iscariot did not like what Mary did. He was one of Jesus’ disciples. Later he was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Judas said, **5**“Why wasn’t this perfume sold? Why wasn’t the money given to poor people? It was worth a year’s pay.” **6**He didn’t say this because he cared about the poor. He said it because he was a thief. Judas was in charge of the money bag. He used to help himself to what was in it.

“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “The perfume was meant for the day I am buried. **8**You will always have the poor among you. But you won’t always have me.”

**9**Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there, so they came. But they did not come only because of Jesus. They also came to see Lazarus. After all, Jesus had raised him from the dead. **10**So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus too. **11**Because of Lazarus, many of the Jews were starting to follow Jesus. They were believing in him.

What Jesus is saying in John is that there will always be poor among us. Jesus was reminding Judas of the passage in Deuteronomy that we are to care for the poor. Except Judas was a liar. He wanted the perfume to be sold not to give the money to the poor. Judas wanted it sold so he could steal the money to use if for himself. The poor would not benefit from the sale of the perfume.

This reflects back to the Deuteronomy passage: there will always be poor, and it is our responsibility a open our hearts and hands to them. We should not look down on the poor and think badly of them because of their position in life, but we should give freely to them and open our arms to them.