

# LABOR SUNDAY

Building the Kingdom

# Jesus

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- Galilee was ruled by Herod the Great
  - Installed and supported by Rome
  - Built temples to court favor of religious elite
- Nazareth was close to two urban centers; Tiberias and Sepphoris.
- Tekton-carpenter or laborer
- Politics based a peasant society, systems of purity and patrichary

# Wages

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## Multiple scriptures prohibiting wage theft

Leviticus 19:13

Malachi 3:5

James 5:4

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

## Living wages

Matt. 20:1-16

1 Denarius/ day was a living wage

Roman Legionnaire received approx 300/year

# Wages In MA

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- Current Minimum is \$9.00/ hour
  - \$10.00/ hour January 1, 2016
  - \$11.00/ hour January 1, 2017
- Current Living Wage
  - \$13.77/ hour for 1 Adult
  - \$17.32/ hour for 2 Adults and 2 Children
  - MIT Calculation



### The Fight for \$15

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the cause of the widow

Isaiah 1:17

# Fighting Exploitation

WYNDHAM HOTEL



MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S



# Need For Revenue

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- 10.4% of MA workforce is precariously employed as of July 1. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 375, 695 Households in MA are food insecure. Project Bread
- 446 Bridges in MA are Structurally Deficient. Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.
- \$335 million cut from Education Funding 2002-2013. Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.

# Education

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## Income Rises with Education Level

- Average Hourly Rate
  - High School-\$14.12
  - Some College-\$15.00
  - Bachelor's or Higher-\$29.01

Lower State Aid Results in Higher Student Debt

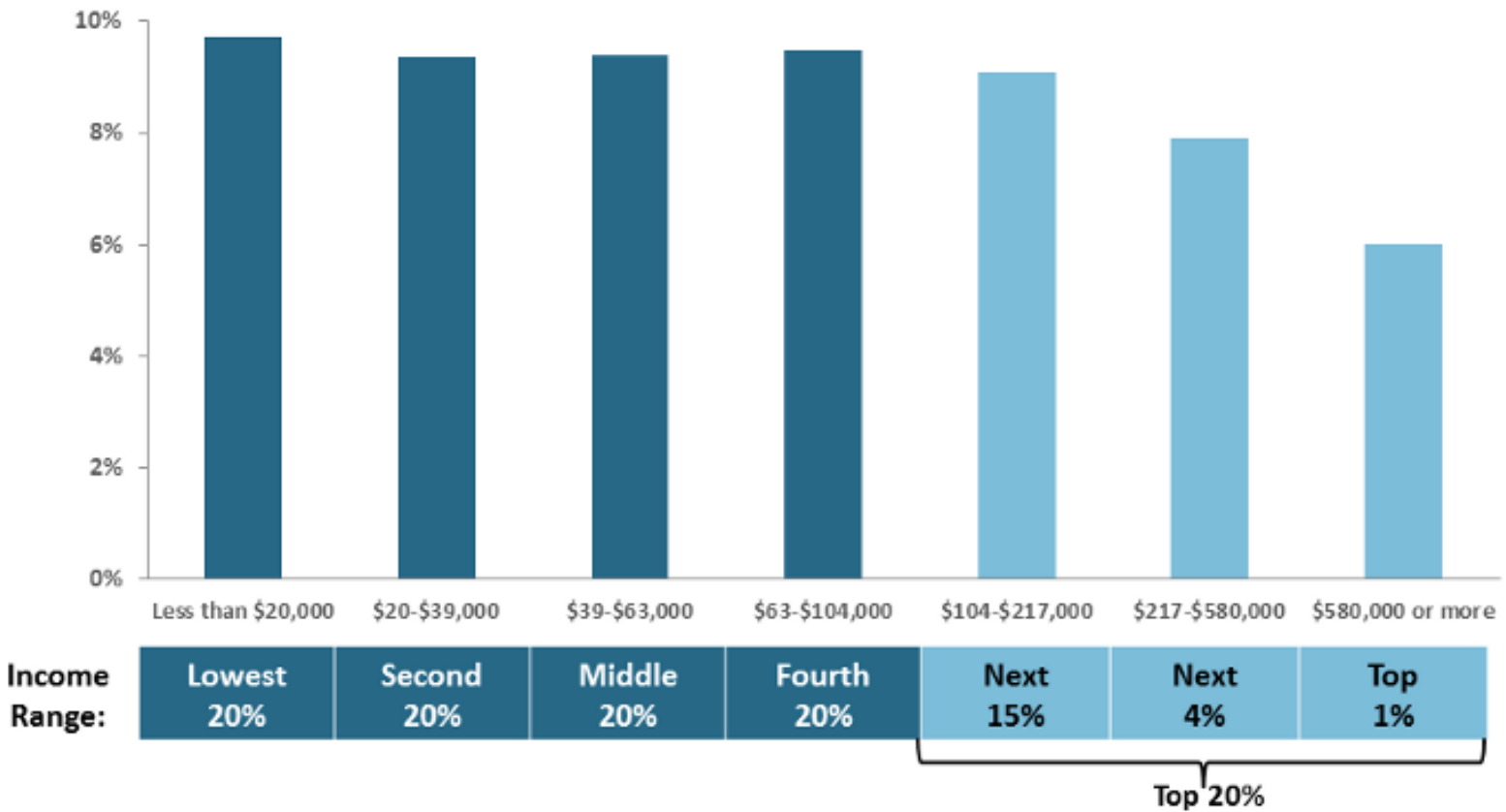
Average of \$28,500 for MA undergrads

[www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com), *Average Student Debt for Mass. Grads.*

Nov. 13, 2014.

# Regressive Taxation

% personal income paid in state and local taxes, 2010



# Revenue Provides

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- Access to Quality Education
- Funding for Infrastructure
- Jobs
- Healthcare
- food assistance

Leviticus 19:9-10 'When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God

# Raise Up Mass: Constitutional Amendment

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- Increases tax rate 4% on income above \$1 million
- Adjusted annually to reflect Cost-of-Living increases
- New Revenue only funds:
  - Public Education
  - Public Colleges & Universities
  - Road Repair & Maintenance
  - Bridges
  - Public Transportation

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:13-15

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- <sup>13</sup> Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.
- <sup>14</sup> At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality,
- <sup>15</sup> as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.

# 1 John 3:16-18

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- <sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.
- <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
- <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

# Practice Justice

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- **At the Ballot Box**

- Moral positions creating a more just world
- Budget referendums and candidates whose policies correspond to Christ's vision.
- Sign petitions

- **Support a movement**

- Join a picket line, march, rally or protest
- Leaflet a store
- Donate to a movement
- Collect signatures
- Canvass
- Organize

- **Think about where you shop/ what you buy**

- Stop&Shop vs. Wal-Mart
- Market Basket vs. Wal-Mart
- Costco/ BJ's

- **Follow MA Interfaith Worker Justice on Facebook**