Francis and Clare: the early documents; Discussion One

The list of early Franciscan documents and abbreviations used:
(all documents are found in links to the first class of this section)

*Francis:*
- Early Rule: ER
- Later Rule: LR
- Testament: Fr. Test.
- Rule for Hermitages
- Admonition 5
- Canticle

*Clare:*
- Rule: Clare Rule
- Testament: Clare Test.
- Letters to Agnes of Prague: Letter 1, 2, 3, 4

The “Rules” are cited by chapter and verse, e.g., ER 7.5 means “Early Rule, Chapter 7, Verse 5”
Other works are cited by verse, e.g., Fr. Test. 40 means “Francis’s Testament, Verse 40”
Verses are indicated in superscript numbers before each verse

**Tasks for all topics:** what do early Franciscan documents say about those issues/topics and what scriptural texts (if any) do they use to support the points?

**Topics for Discussion One and documents to use:**

**Topic 1.** Francis on work and daily life. Flood, Chapter 1, no. 3 (Daily Life), pp. 11-13; Chapter 1, no. 4 (Work), pp. 13-17
Franciscan documents: ER 7 (especially ER 7.1-12, attention to ER 7.3, 5-6); ER 8.10; LR 5; Fr. Test. 20-21
issues examined: work (what kind of work?), compensation and economics, engagement with people they work for, taking charge, having tools, where to live

**Topic 2.** Francis on Money. Flood, Chapter 1, no. 5 (Money), pp. 17-20
Franciscan documents: ER 8, ER 7.7; LR 4
issues examined: can they use money? why not?

**Topic 3.** Francis on Possessions. Flood, Chapter 1, no. 7 (Possessions), pp. 23-27
Franciscan documents: ER 1 and 2; ER 7.13; ER 11; LR 1; LR 6.1 and 4; LR 10; Fr. Test. 24
issues examined: what friars are allowed to own (clothes etc.), where to live, how to behave towards possessions, etc.
**Topic 4.** Francis and the meaning of “following Jesus”: a model for social action. Flood, Chapter 1, no. 8 (Question of Identity), pp. 27-31 (especially p. 30); Chapter 2, no. 14 (Social Action), pp. 49-52
Franciscan documents: ER 9; ER 14; ER 17.7 and 17; Fr. Test. 3
issues examined: what does it mean for Franciscans “to follow Jesus”? What sort of social action does this imply?

**Topic 5.** Francis and Clare on begging, economics, and social justice. Flood, Chapter 1, no. 10 (Mendicancy and Justice), pp. 35-38
Franciscan documents: ER 9; LR 6.2-3; Fr. Test. 22; Clare Rule 8.2
issues examined: is receiving alms a right? why? what is the benefit to giving and receiving alms for both parties?