

**General Topics :: A WORD FROM JESUS****A WORD FROM JESUS - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/11/24 20:52**

"He said also to the one who had invited him; "When you give a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you will be repaid your kindness. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you shall be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

LUKE 14 vs12-14

Re: A WORD FROM JESUS - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/11/25 9:59

B*U*M*P !!

Re: - posted by RainMan, on: 2010/11/25 10:34

question: I heard a guy on the 700 club talk about gods law of reciprocity. The way he explained it it was kind of leaning to a reciprocity in this current age.

Is gods reciprocity towards us limited to "kingdom come"?

Re: A WORD FROM JESUS - posted by enid, on: 2010/11/25 10:40

I wonder, in this day and age, if it is so easy, to find the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, and invite them to a meal.

I'm not trying to disregard what scripture is saying. It is looking at servanthood, hospitality, humility and giving. These are virtues we should strive to have.

But I'm speaking in the sense that, I honestly don't see people like that around where I live. I just don't.

In the past, we've invited people to our home for a Christmas meal, and they just don't show up. You'd think with them having little or nothing, they'd be there. But, that's not so.

Also, I understand that Jesus is telling us not to look for a reward in what we do, but do it regardless.

God bless.

Re: - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/11/25 10:47

JESUS is speaking of considering those who cannot repay your kindness. Maybe you have tried to find such as these, and to help. If you have, GOD bless.

Re: - posted by RainMan, on: 2010/11/25 10:55

There is poverty all around us. If I lived in a billionaire's row it would be hard to encounter poor people. The third world is full of families that need a hand. In the west there is a tendency to look down on poor people as lazy. But if we are willing to take a drive out of our gated community comfort zones we are sure to find poor people even in the west.

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2010/11/25 12:07

One doesn't even need to take a drive now to find people that need help. Similarly if the people you invite for dinner/lunch etc don't show up, well then next time use the money differently and one which you know will certainly be put to great use. See examples below.

We can help right from our house using the internet.

For eg: look at Gospel For Asia's website. One can donate there. \$5 can provide for a pair of rabbits or a pair of chicken or a blanket. You can choose which items you want your \$ to go to from bibles to shoes for the missionaries etc and how much (100% of money goes to the field as the admin etc all raise their own \$). This is just 1 website. There are others websites too for eg: Open Doors, Voice of Marys etc.

Re: - posted by terrybob (), on: 2010/11/26 2:32

Poverty is wide spread throughout England but you need the right eyes to see it. Having worked in social housing across the North for the past 20 years it is clear that there are many struggling people trying to live decent lives and bring up their children as best as they can.

Many work juggling low paid part time jobs with looking after a family, this is made worse with an increase in single parent families. The stereotype of the feckless, work-shy, benefit society we have been fed by a largely hostile media egged on by people who should know better is just not true of vast numbers of silent, struggling people at their wits end to make ends meet.

This poverty and need is hidden in our society by proud people who will not share their need and anxiety about life with anyone outside of their immediate circle of trusted friends, and these are often thin on the ground if not nonexistent.

The only way to know about all of this is to live where they live and to walk as they walk, then, slowly trust is established and the barriers come down. This is exactly what the Lord Jesus did for us – He came from heaven's glory to live as a working man, in a poor place and rub shoulders day by day with ordinary people who were struggling to make a living.

The model of this in our day is someone like Jackie Pullinger – this way of sharing the gospel is not easy, it takes commitment borne of love and ownership of the Lordship of Christ – it takes a change in life style, friendships and sharing. The emphasis is sharing, one broken person sharing out of our poverty what we have with someone in need, to meet their need at the right time and in an acceptable way. This is not dispensing charity it is sharing out of our poverty. Part of that sharing is for us to learn how to be able to receive – this often very hard for Christians to do, we are good at giving to all sorts of good things but receiving a gift when we need takes a humble and contrite heart (the difficult part for many, including me).

There are many unsung saints doing just this day by day throughout the world, including England, the US and Canada. The poor are there, all around you, just ask the Lord to open your eyes, you will be amazed.

Take care and God bless you all as you seek to share the gospel of the risen Jesus with those in need - His way.

Terry

A love they cannot gainsay nor resist! - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/11/26 7:06

Quote:
-----terrybob wrote:
The model of this in our day is someone like Jackie Pullinger – this way of sharing the gospel is not easy, it takes commitment borne of love and ownership of the Lordship of Christ – it takes a change in life style, friendships and sharing.

I believe this statement to be absolutely true. I would add for us here in North America, that we don't even have to leave North America to change our "lifestyle, friendships and sharing!"

I had a pastor years ago who had church in a house (they gutted) on Third St in Dayton OH (if you know anything about Dayton OH, you know this area); and down past it was all the homeless lived in their lean-tos (in the 70's they called them winos).

These precious people started coming to church, most times they came drunk; they were humble about it, they would ask before coming in (they just didn't barge in) b/c they knew they couldn't walk into a regular church. Bro. Herman never turned anyone away.

It takes a special, deep love to minister to people WAY below your income line; I'm not saying I have it but I did have a pristine example in one man of God!

God bless,
Lisa

Re: , on: 2010/11/26 17:48

Terrybob writes.....

"Poverty is wide spread throughout England but you need the right eyes to see it. Having worked in social housing across the North for the past 20 years it is clear that there are many struggling people trying to live decent lives and bring up their children as best as they can."

Well said Terry, good post. I come from a welfare background, raised in the housing schemes of Scotland. There are very few churches that can break through the barriers that men have created. Someone famous, I think it was Brooks, once said that the "class system within the church represents the triumph of the world over the church."

It would be akin to the fact that it used to be in the States, and still is in many areas, that the most segregated place in America was the church on a Sunday morning. These attitudes that you described of people's feelings towards those who are in poverty or welfare or food stamps, is rife within the American church, egged on by politicians who make a wedge issue out of it, but again, that is the triumph of the world over the church.

When people that are called by the name of Jesus decide to lay aside their agendas, their philosophies, their own prejudices and begin to look at the world the way Jesus looks at the world, when they decide to follow Jesus with their whole hearts, then we will see a world rocked. When the passion of the Christians is Jesus, and not sports or politics or careers or even families, when Jesus gets a hold of a people who are completely sold out to Him, He can and will do mighty things.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/11/26 18:24

Rainman wrote:

Quote:
-----question: I heard a guy on the 700 club talk about gods law of reciprocity. The way he explained it it was kind of leaning to a reciprocity in this current age. Is gods reciprocity towards us limited to "kingdom come"?

Mar 10:29-30

(29) And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

(30) But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Reciprocity now and in the world to come. Do we really think we can sacrifice for Christ and not have Him repay us. This does not mean we can sacrifice a lot as a means of fulfilling lust for things now. Even that concept does not make sense. But we do have Jesus promise of reciprocity in the now and in the then.

There are poor everywhere. "The poor you will have with you always." Some are so because of choice, some because of sin, some because of hard times that were not their own making. All are loved by God and He desires us to minister to them. I cannot meet the needs of every poor person in my community but I can follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in finding a way to minister to those who I can.

Re: - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/11/26 18:56

The least of these;
Whose cries are heard--
The least of these;
Whose hearts are known--
The least of these;
Whose cause will be remembered
Before the Cross and before the Throne ??

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/11/26 20:37

hi, the poor and the homeless are ministries that must be incorporated in churches all over the world. to say that they are lazy is crazy. i ministered to the homeless for years in new orleans and some did not know who their parents were or when or where they were born. most had no ss cards or ids for employment. many belonged in mental institutions. almost all were so down that they did not believe they could ever change. only God helped these people. every once in a while a miracle would happen and it would keep US going. Jesus said tell him that the poor are being ministered to...jimp

Re: - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/11/26 20:54

JESUS calls us to compassion !!
There are real needs crying out to be met; and the Body of Christ is not hearing and answering the call of compassion!!

Re: A WORD FROM JESUS, on: 2010/11/26 21:39

The real power of that parable is in the way it explains the kingdom of God. If you look at it in light of (first of all the Gospel) and then in light of the parables around it, you will see Jesus was saying, "The feast is ready, all is ready, the Bread of Life has come and He is inviting all to come and feast. But those who were rich (just bought oxen, bought a field, getting married) would not come. So the Master, being so willing and overjoyed to give of all that He has and share with whoever will come, invites those who have nothing....the lame, the poor, the blind, the crippled. (Think Revelation 3)

It is a marvelous picture of the Gospel. God invites men to Himself and requires nothing in return. The Gospel is free, it is a celebration, it is a feast. God only gives things away. And if we receive that salvation. If that is the Gospel we believe, then you can be sure He will shed His love abroad in our hearts, and we will offer the same Gospel to men, whether rich

h or poor.

Re: - posted by SolaVeritas, on: 2010/11/26 21:51

We can't help every poor person in the world, but most certainly there ought to be no one in need who is our brother or sister. We need more sensibility in this area in our churches!

1 John 3:17

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

I hope to see Christians everywhere starting to take commands like this seriously and literally, and I recognize my own shortcomings in this area.

For example, would you sell your expensive SUV and buy two smaller, used cars for the money you get, so you can give one to the family that has none? What about that big house in the suburbs, or the cottage you own? But we think we have a right to these things, we earned them. How much it must grieve the Lord to see us hang our hearts onto things rather than surrendering them to Him (who is the rightful owner anyway). I have never stirred the pot more than when I have brought up thoughts like this in Sunday school or Bible studies...