

07-19-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“In the Realm of God everybody gets what they need to thrive as members of the Body. That means special attention to the folks who are most harmed by our systems of privilege and exclusion. So God takes the side of the poor and powerless and marginalized, and commands us to do the same. Honoring Jesus as our king means committing to obeying his command to care for the poor and hurting.”

Steve Garnaas-Holmes



Matthew 25:31-40

Questions for Reflection —

- Who are the “least of these” in the daily sphere of your life—your workplace and neighborhood? What “blind spots” might hinder your ability to see the needs of those you encounter in your daily life? What helps open your eyes to the deepest needs of people around you—friend, neighbor, and stranger alike? What needs of those people most touch your heart? What simple practical action(s) might you take to address those needs? With what has God equipped you—skills, talents, resources—that you can use to bless others?
- Who are the folks being presently most harmed by unjust and exclusive societal systems? What does active compassion look like in the face of want and oppression? Where/how in the ministries and programs of our church do you see our faith community embodying God’s compassion and concern for the powerless and marginalized? How can we offer real-world alternatives to the discrimination, oppression, and divisiveness so prevalent in our world? Where do you see opportunities and possibilities for our congregation to further demonstrate Christ’s love and compassion?
- What motivates you to serve others? What proportion of your time and energy do you spend in service to others? Is engaging in such service an obligatory task or a source of joy for you? What people do you find difficult to serve and why? What will help you more clearly see Jesus in each person you encounter, especially in those with whom it is difficult for you to engage? In what ways has serving others helped you to grow in Christ-like characteristics?

Daily Household Prayer

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people; move my hands that they may feed the hungry. Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing. Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers. Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked. Give me the care that strengthens the sick. Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free. In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of Your divine presence. Amen.